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THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 2004



Towering celebration

Firefighter Robert Duriaux — son of Henri Duriaux, who raised the French flag atop the Eiffel Tower on Aug. 25, 1944 — hoists the French tricolor at the tower in Paris on Wednesday. Paris' tribute to its liberation is the last in a series of 60th anniversary commemorations by France marking critical moments leading to the capitulation of Germany and the end of World War II. See story on Page 11

Russians investigate simultaneous plane crashes

89 killed on two jets;
terrorism a possibility Page 10



Advantage: U.S.

Home court doesn't help Greece
as U.S. women's basketball team
rolls into the semifinals

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No hold on gold

American Rulon Gardner tearfully
hangs up his wrestling shoes after
settling for bronze in Greco-Roman

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Electronic voting machines: The last of 11 California counties began in April from using electronic voting machines on Nov. 2 have now renewed rights to use their machines, Secretary of State Kevin Shelley said Tuesday. Shelley's office in Sacramento, Calif., said Alameda and Plumas counties have agreed to tighter security conditions for using the machines, including making paper ballots available to those who request them.

Phil Spector murder charges: Music producer Phil Spector has hired an attorney who used to work for mob boss John Gotti to defend him on murder charges after his previous attorney resigned from the case.

Leslie Abramson said Tuesday that she and her co-counsel resigned as Spector's attorneys but were taken by surprise when Bruce Cutler filed a motion to take over the case while Abramson was out of the country.

Federal prosecutors in New York have portrayed Cutler as "house counsel" for the Gambino crime family. Gotti died in prison in 2002.

Spector, 64, famed for creating rock 'n' roll's "wall of sound" recording technique in the 1960s, is charged in the fatal shooting of Lana Clarkson at his mansion in February 2003.

Georgia crematory lawsuit: A jury of five men and three women was selected Tuesday in Rome, Ga., to decide a civil lawsuit against the former operator of a northwest Georgia crematory where hundreds of corpses were left unburied.

The jury includes one black woman, the only black member of the original 60-person jury pool. But the defense attorney for Brent Marsh, who is black, said his client would get a fair trial.

Nearly 1,700 relatives of people who were supposed to be cremated by Marsh are suing him and the estate of his late father, Ray Marsh.

The trial will determine only liability. If the jury rules against the Marshes, a second trial will be held to decide how much they should pay in damages.

Roy Horn tiger-mauling video: The company that produced the Siegfried & Roy magic show has refused to give federal investigators a video of the tiger attack that badly injured illusionist Roy Horn.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture attempted to obtain the video through two subpoenas, but Vienna, Va.-based Field Entertainment would not hand over the footage, a USDA source familiar with the case said Tuesday, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Under the Animal Welfare Act, the USDA has been investigating the October attack in Brent, Horn was mauled by a 300-pound white tiger during a live performance at The Mirage hotel-casino in Las Vegas.

Horn survived but later suffered a stroke that left him partially paralyzed. The long-running show closed.

War on terrorism

Pfc. England hearing: A military court in Fort Bragg, N.C., next week will resume a hearing on charges against a female soldier whose notorious photos with naked Iraqi prisoners are at the center of an international prisoner abuse scandal.

Army Pfc. Lynndie England's Article 32 hearing, which recessed Aug. 7 after five



Peterson trial: Scott Peterson's former mistress, Amber Frey, center, wrapped up her testimony Tuesday under a mostly cordial cross-examination, saying he neither told her he loved her nor tried to stop her from telling police about their affair that prosecutors claim drove Peterson to kill his pregnant wife. Flanking Frey as she leaves the San Mateo Superior Court are her attorneys Gloria Allred, left, and Nate Goldberg.

days, will resume Monday and should run two days, military officials said Tuesday.

The hearing is to determine whether England, a 21-year-old reservist with the Maryland-based 372nd Military Police Company, should face a court-martial on 13 counts of abusing detainees at Abu Ghraib prison and six counts stemming from possession of sexually explicit photos.

If convicted, she could get up to 38 years in prison.

Filipino workers in Iraq: The Philippines will keep a ban on its workers going to Iraq following an attack that wounded a Filipino engineer, the government said Tuesday from Manila.

Daniilo Pasisa sustained gunshot wounds and three of his companions, an Indonesian and two Iraqis, were killed when their vehicle came under attack near the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Sunday, the Philippine foreign affairs department said.

World

Terror in Uzbekistan: Islamic militants wanted by Uzbek police for their alleged involvement in recent violence could strike again despite tightened security, a senior police official said Wednesday.

The comments came after the U.S. State Department said Tuesday it had information that terrorists may be planning attacks in Uzbekistan in early September during the country's Independence Day celebrations.

Asian bird flu: More money and global attention should be focused on bird flu in Asia to study the virus, which experts fear could mutate and trigger a human pandemic, the World Health Organization said Wednesday.

Vietnam suffered the highest human death toll — 16 people — when the disease broke out in Asia earlier this year. Three more died in Hanoi, Vietnam, last month

when the dangerous H5N1 strain struck again, bringing the total to 19.

EU talks with Turkey: The European Commission should open EU membership talks with Turkey within 24 months, a Dutch advisory body said Wednesday from The Hague, Netherlands, strengthening the hopes of the first Muslim country seeking to join the 25-member union.

But the report to the Dutch government, which holds the rotating EU presidency and will oversee a decision on membership talks in December, said it would be unwise to set a target date for Turkey's accession, arguing that it could create false expectations.

Palestinians seek reform: The Palestinian legislature on Wednesday overwhelmingly accepted a set of recommendations calling for reforms in the Palestinian Authority.

But critics complained the proposal was vague and fell far short of the sweeping overhaul needed to clean up the corruption-plagued government.

The recommendations included forming a viable government capable of fighting corruption more effectively and restoring law and order.

Cleric charges: Indonesian prosecutors announced on Wednesday they would soon charge militant cleric Abu Bakar Bashir with terror crimes, as he denounced his detention as "oppression from America."

Bashir made the comment to reporters as armed guards took him from police headquarters to a prison cell where he will be held under prosecutors' jurisdiction until his trial begins.

Police have accused Bashir, 66, of heading the regional terror group Jemaah Islamiyah and playing a role in the Aug. 5, 2003, bombing of the J.W. Marriott Hotel in Jakarta, which killed 12 people.

Stories and photos from wire services

Correction

A story in Wednesday's editions about a change of command in Luxembourg should have said that the U.S. Army Materiel Command Combat Equipment Battalion-Luxembourg has a workforce of more than 200 mostly host-nation personnel.

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Temporary restraining order granted to former GI recalled for Iraq duty

By TIM WHITMIRE

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — A federal judge ruled Wednesday that a former Army reservist from suburban Raleigh does not have to report for recall to Iraq by Friday, granting a temporary restraining order at least until a hearing next week.

Todd Parrish of Cary is locked in a legal battle with the Army over his status. He says his Army commitment expired Dec. 19, after four years of active duty and another four years in the Reserve.

But the Army says Parrish never formally resigned his commission as a lieutenant, making him indefinitely eligible for involuntary recall to duty.

Last month, Parrish sued the Army, contending he was never informed of any requirement or need to "resign" his Army Reserve commission in order to terminate his status with the U.S. Army Reserve.

With a Friday deadline looming for Parrish to report for duty and discussions with the Army going nowhere, Parrish's lawyer Mark Waple said he filed a motion Monday for a temporary restraining order in Raleigh federal court.

U.S. District Judge Louise Flanagan granted the request Wednesday. She scheduled a hearing on whether to grant a preliminary injunction against the Army for Sept. 1. In her order, Flanagan said the Army's willingness to extend Parrish's reporting date shows the military will not be harmed by delaying the case until a full hearing can be held.

Waple, of Fayetteville, said he and the Army have been going back and forth about Parrish's sta-

tus since Parrish first received an order from the Army in May requiring him to report to Fort Sill, Okla., by June 13 for processing and deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

When Parrish tried to resign his commission, the Army told him it was too late. He then filed for an exemption from recall, which also was denied, Waple said.

Parrish has appealed that ruling.

Waple has said he believes Parrish is a victim of efforts by the military to keep as many people as possible in the Individual Ready Reserve so they can be called to active duty.

The Defense Department has been using numerous devices to keep enlistment up during the Iraq conflict, including a stop-loss order that prevents soldiers from leaving the military when their obligations end and multiple deployments of Guard and Reserve units.

Parrish, who grew up in Durham, attended North Carolina State University on a Reserve Officers' Training Corps scholarship. He served four years on active duty in the United States, completing that obligation in December 1997.

Last week, a California Army National Guard soldier sued the military in federal court in San Francisco over the concept of an all-volunteer military force.

Stop loss also was enacted during the buildup to the 1991 Persian Gulf War.



Shiite faithful in Basra, Iraq, hoist a picture of Grand Ayatollah Ali Hussein al-Sistani, 73, after he crossed into Iraq from Kuwait in a convoy Wednesday. Al-Sistani has been in London for medical treatment since Aug. 6, one day after clashes erupted in Najaf. His return could play a crucial role in stabilizing the crisis.

Top cleric returns to Iraq as fighting rages in Najaf

By ABDUL HUSSEIN AL-OBEDI

The Associated Press

NAJAF, Iraq — Iraq's most powerful Shiite cleric returned from Britain on Wednesday, and his aides called for a nationwide march to Najaf to end nearly three weeks of fierce fighting between U.S. forces and Shiite militants in this holy city.

In honor of Grand Ayatollah Ali Hussein al-Sistani's arrival, militants loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr said they would support fighting with coalition and Iraqi forces in every region al-Sistani passes through on his way to Najaf, said al-Sadr aide Aws al-Khafaji.

Heavy fighting persisted in Najaf's Old City, the center of most of the past three weeks of clashes. U.S. warplanes fired on the neighborhood, helicopters flew overhead and heavy gunfire was heard in the streets, witnesses said.

Meanwhile, militants said Wednesday they had kidnapped the brother-in-law of Iraqi Defense Minister Hazem Shaalan and demanded he end all military operations in Najaf, according to a video, Al-Jazeera television reported.

In nearby Kufa, just northeast of Najaf, unidentified gunmen killed two people and wounded five others taking part in what appeared to be a peaceful demonstration supporting al-Sadr, said Mohammed Abdul Kadhim, an employee at Kufa's Furat al-Awsat Hospital.

Video from Associated Press Television News showed apparently unarmed demonstrators wounded during a few minutes of heavy gunfire, but it was not clear who was shooting. Witnesses said the gunfire appeared to come from an Iraqi National Guard post.

Witnesses said the marchers, numbering in the hundreds and carrying slogans in support of al-Sadr and pictures of both al-Sadr and al-Sistani, were headed to Kufa.

Earlier, Najaf Gov. Adnan al-Zurufi said Iraqi security forces had "taken all needed measures to prevent any crowds from entering the province," calling it a "military area."

In Kufa, Iraqi police sealed off the Old City, preventing cars from entering, and Najaf's police chief, Maj. Gen. Ghalib al-Jazairi, said al-Sadr's Mahdi Army militia was on its last legs.

"The Mahdi Army is finished," he said. "Its hours are numbered."

Witnesses in the Old City said militants were still fighting in the streets, though the relentless American attacks in Najaf appeared to be weakening them.

Police on Wednesday arrested several al-Sadr aides with valuables from the sacred Imam Ali Shrine, which they control, in their possession, al-Jazairi said.

One of al-Sadr's top lieutenants, Sheikh Ali Smeisim, was among those arrested, police officials said in a condition of anonymity.

Al-Sistani, 73, had been in London for medical treatment since Aug. 6, one day after clashes erupted in Najaf. The cleric wields enormous influence among Shiite Iraqis and his return could play a crucial role in stabilizing the crisis.

Interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's office issued a statement welcoming al-Sistani back "on behalf of all Iraqis."

Al-Sistani crossed into southern Iraq from Kuwait about midday in a caravan of sport utility vehicles accompanied by Iraqi police and national guardsmen, according to an Associated Press reporter with the convoy. The convoy stopped in the southern city of Basra.

Al-Sistani is heading to Najaf "to stop the bloodshed," said Al-Sayyid Murtadha Al-Kashmiri, an al-Sistani representative in London. "Those believers who wish to join him, let them join," he said.

In Shiite areas across Iraq, appeals issued from mosque loudspeakers urging Iraqis to heed al-Sistani's call.

In separate violence west of Baghdad, U.S. warplanes and tanks bombed the volatile city of Fallujah for more than two hours, killing at least four people, hospital officials and residents said.

Based in the city are Sunni insurgents the government believes are responsible for months of kidnappings, bombings and shooting attacks against coalition troops, Iraqi forces and civilians across Iraq.

Meanwhile, militants in Iraq threatened to behead two Turkish hostages if their company does not withdraw from the country within three days, Turkish media reported Wednesday.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, 962 U.S. servicemenbers have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 720 died as a result of hostile action and 242 died of nonhostile causes.

The British military has reported 64 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, 11; Poland, 10; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, six; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 824 U.S. servicemenbers

have died — 611 as a result of hostile action and 213 of nonhostile causes, according to the military's numbers Tuesday.

Since the start of U.S. military operations in Iraq, 6,690 U.S. servicemenbers have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defense Department's weekly tally.

The latest deaths reported by U.S. Central Command:

■ Assassins fired a rocket-propelled grenade at a U.S. patrol in Baghdad on Monday night, killing two soldiers, the military said.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Marine Sgt. Richard Lord, 24, Gunning Springs, Fla., died Aug. 18 from injuries received in

combat in Anbar province, Iraq; assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Marine Gunnery Sgt. Edward Reader, 32, Camp Verde, Ariz., died Saturday in a vehicle accident in Anbar province, Iraq; assigned to Headquarters and Service Battalion, 1st Force Service Support Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Army 2nd Lt. Matthew Stovall, 25, Horn Lake, Miss., died Sunday in Mosul, Iraq, when an explosive detonated near his vehicle; assigned to the Army National Guard's 367th Maintenance Company, 298th Corps Support Battalion, Philadelphia, Miss.



Left: 1st Lt. Waylon Gross discusses routes with Jeffrey Brinkley, the U.S. Embassy's health attaché, on Tuesday during a safety brief. Brinkley was going to the Iraqi Ministry of Health in Baghdad. Center: It was wall-to-wall traffic for the "Hellraisers" from the 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment Battery A as they made their way through Baghdad to drop off Brinkley. Right: Brinkley waves goodbye to convoy escort leader Gross before entering the Iraqi Ministry of Health.



PHOTOS BY LISA BURGESS/Stars and Stripes

Steel Dragon burns up road with escort duty

Since April, 1st Cav GIs have driven more than 5 million miles in Iraq

BY LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

CAMP STEEL DRAGON, BAGHDAD—Five million miles.

That's how far the crews of Task Force Steel Dragon have driven since April 8, when the battalion began escort duty in Iraq.

Hailing from Fort Hood, Texas, the 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment passed the seven-figure mile marker on Saturday, according to Lt. Col. Gregory Schultz, the battalion commander.

Maintenance workers have been recording the mileage of each vehicle and adding them together, Schultz told Stars and Stripes on Tuesday inside the International Zone, the protected area in the middle of Baghdad that houses the U.S. Embassy and other critical Iraqi and global entities.

The Steel Dragons' mission is simple: provide convoy escort protection for employees of the U.S. Embassy and members of the Multinational Forces Iraq wherever they travel.

But nothing in Iraq is simple.

To begin with, the 1st Cavalry Division unit was not designed for security or military police work; it is a field artillery unit. So its soldiers have had to master an entirely different set of skills in a few months before deploying, Schultz said.

Thanks in part to lessons learned from its predecessor, the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, "we hit the ground pretty well prepared," Schultz said. "The only thing these guys lacked was real-world experience."

That came quickly. The week Task Force Steel Dragon began its escorts, Sadr City—a Baghdad slum with 2 million people—exploded in violence.

"Four days into our mission, four of our platoons had gotten attacked," Schultz said. "So within one week, our guys were veterans."

As of Saturday, the battalion had completed 2,610 missions.

Schultz said the task force has faced 50 attacks since April, from roadside bombs and mortars to rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire.

Yet not a single soldier from the battalion has been killed, though some 25 soldiers in the task force have been pinned on Purple Hearts, and one contractor died after a roadside bomb exploded, Schultz said.

About 70 percent of the battalion's missions are in Baghdad, Schultz said, but others take it everywhere in Iraq.

While "Baghdad is usually pretty safe," 1st Lt. Waylon Gross said, the longer trips can be different—especially when driving to sabotaged oil pipelines.

"When you're out in the middle of the desert, (insurgents) can just sit there and wait for you," Gross said. "They know you are coming. You have to come. And they wait for it."

Gross is platoon commander for 4th Platoon, Battery A. His "Hellraisers" are one of the battalion's most battle-hardened units, with more than 70 missions under its belts.

Inside Gross' boogie cap, neatly inked with crosshatches, is a record of what the soldiers have gone through in their five months in-country: nine enemies killed and 11 IEDs, or improvised explosive devices.

Gross said he stopped tracking mortar explosions after making at least 20 marks.

There have been lulls in the violence, notably after the interim Iraqi government took over, Schultz said.

Iraqi police are now taking a more active role, he added, which seems to be

SEE ESCORT ON PAGE 7



Pvt. Richard DeLeon, of Berlin, N.Y., is ready for trouble as he mans his weapon atop one of the 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment armored Humvees during escort duty Tuesday in Baghdad.



Schultz

Maintenance crews also face danger on convoy missions

BY LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

When it comes to dangerous missions, no one is exempt in the 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment.

Maintenance crews, which keep the battalion's 200 vehicles running, often have to work around the clock.

If a particular part comes in at 11:30 p.m., the crew responsible for the broken vehicle immediately heads to the maintenance bay, said Capt. Austin Moffitt, the battalion's maintenance officer.

Iraq's rough roads and the enormous weight of the armored vehicles exponentially increase wear and tear.

"We've gone through about 300 tires in five months," said Sgt. Darren Ivey of Willingboro, N.J., who is in charge of provid-

"We went around [the roadblock of trash], but we noticed a guy calling on a phone, and then he ran. By the time we got [to the broken vehicle], the mortars were falling."

Sgt. Ngala Benn

talking about encountering an ambush while recovering a vehicle

ing parts for the battalion's vehicles. "In garrison, maybe we would go through 60 tires a year."

The toughest jobs come outside the safety of the secure maintenance bays.

Maintenance crewmembers ride along on convoys outside of Baghdad and have the unenviable task of recovering damaged vehicles.

Sgt. Ngala Benn and his driver, Pfc. Anthony Zamora, have completed seven major recovery missions since April using the behemoth (and non-air-conditioned) recovery vehicle nicknamed "Hookah."

Of those missions, four have drawn enemy fire, Benn said.

Getting shot at is never fun, especially when you are otherwise occupied and

can't shoot back, Benn said.

The pair's worst mission came earlier this month.

After a roadside bomb disabled a Humvee on the outskirts of Baghdad, Benn and Zamora got the call to bring it back.

Even before the rescue convoy got to the damaged Humvee, the recovery team hit a makeshift roadblock of trash tossed in the road.

"We went around it, but we noticed a guy calling on a phone, and then he ran," Benn said. "By the time we got [to the broken vehicle], the mortars were falling."

It was a full-out ambush.

As the team rolled to a stop, the small-arms fire erupted. Benn and Zamora could see the puffs of concrete dust as the bullets cratered the walls of nearby

SEE CREWS ON PAGE 7

MIDEAST NOTEBOOK

Lisa Burgess, Jason Chudy and Seth Robson

Living life on the edge in the Middle East

Between mortar attacks, roadside bombs and the ever-present threat of car bombs, many soldiers deployed to Baghdad have more than a few reasons to be on edge.

Those nerves were tested Monday at a Camp Victory dining facility when cooks cleaning up the chow lines dropped a large metal pot.

The resulting "clang" blasted through the large dining hall, causing soldiers lingering over dessert to jump and spin around to locate the source of the racket. Many automatically reached for their weapons.

"Little jumpy?" Stripes asked a soldier who had virtually levitated from the lunch table when the vessel hit the floor.

He smiled sheepishly, ducked his head, and went back to his sandwich.

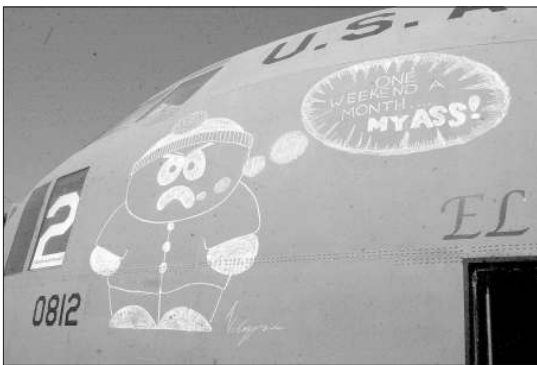
Anyone whose nerves are feeling frayed can vent to a professional ear at "HELP-4," the 2nd Medical Brigade's Combat Stress program.

The Internet address is www.helpsoldiers.com. In Central Iraq, the number to call, by DNVF phone, is 302-558-5546; in northern Iraq, 302-553-9525; in southern Iraq, 318-883-1322.

Trial, error, explosion

When tankers attached to the Fort Hood, Texas-based 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment found that their main gun rounds weren't exploding in the buildings they were firing at in Najaf, Iraq, they had to come up with a way to get the job done.

The M1A2 Abrams 120 mm



JON R. ANDERSON/Stars and Stripes

Above: Cartoon character Eric Cartman from "South Park," serving as nose art on a C-130, speaks for the crew of an Air National Guard unit deployed to Uzbekistan. The traditional recruitment slogan of "one weekend a month, two weeks a year" has become a common punchline for many deployed reservists and Guardsmen. **Right:** As the temperature began to rise in Najaf, Iraq, on Tuesday morning, a foam "snowman" created by a soldier from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment was placed on a Bradley armored fighting vehicle to remind everyone to "think cold."

main gun has basically two types of rounds: an armor-piercing shell and a multipurpose high explosive shell.

Tankers don't use the AP shells against anything other than tanks and armored vehicles, which they aren't facing in Iraq. Their multipurpose round can be set to ex-

plore in a ground target, such as a thick-walled bunker, or in an air burst over a target.

They found that setting the shell on ground mode would cause the round to penetrate the relatively thin walls of Najaf's buildings without exploding, like an AP shell.

Sgt. 1st Class Bruce Highley said the soldiers discovered that when they fire the shell for air burst, the pressure created by the shell entering the room will trigger the round, allowing the tankers to successfully destroy their targets.

Sunshine, partly cloudy

A cloud has been spotted near Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

The small, white, fluffy cloud was seen hovering above the laundry facility on Sunday. It is the



JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

first cloud that soldiers from the 2nd Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team have seen since arriving in Kuwait more than two weeks ago.

One soldier from the South Korea-based unit stared up at the cloud, apparently daydreaming, and said: "It looks like a camel." "No, it doesn't," said another. "It looks like a Humvee."

No TV during dinner

Many mothers might approve of the decision to pull the switch on dining facility televisions at Camp Buehring.

For the past 10 days, soldiers at the base, mostly from the 2nd Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, have downed their Fruit Loops without the benefit of FOX News.

Soldiers said they were told the TV turn-off is due to the large number of personnel living at the base. No TV will mean fewer square-eyed people lingering in the chow hall and more space for other hungry mouths.

The TV-deprived inhabitants were dealt another blow this week when the television in the Morale, Welfare and Recreation waiting room went on the blink. The cabinet where it once rested was empty, leaving soldiers to stare at a blank piece of wall for entertainment while they waited to use the Internet.

Starved of the quality programming provided by the American Forces Network, soldiers have been forced to amuse themselves in their free time. Many soldiers have taken to playing Frisbee, soccer and touch football in the evening instead of vegetating in front of the tube.

Reporters Lisa Burgess, Jason Chudy and Seth Robson contributed to this report.

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Army: 27 people abused prisoners, or "I'd it

BY JOHN J. LUMPKIN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Twenty-seven people attached to an intelligence unit at Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad either approved or participated in the abuse of Iraqi prisoners, an Army investigation found.

"We discovered serious misconduct and a loss of moral values," Gen. Paul Kern, the head of the investigation, told reporters Wednesday at the Pentagon.

Of the 27 individuals accused of complicity in the abuse, 23 were members of the 205th Military Intelligence Brigade that oversaw interrogations at Abu Ghraib. The other four were civilian contractors working for the unit. Six more soldiers in the unit, and two additional contractors, witnessed the abuse but failed to report it, which also violates regulations, Kern said.

All of these people may face charges or disciplinary action for abuses that occurred between late July 2003 and early February 2004. Investigators recommended that an additional five people, including Col. Thomas Pappas, the commander of the 205th, face possible disciplinary action, Army officials said. While these individuals did not take part in abuses, they contributed to the conditions that allowed them to take place, officials said.

"There is no single, simple explanation for why the abuse at Abu Ghraib happened," according to the Pay report. One of the senior investigators was Maj. Gen. George Fay.

The report blames the abuses on several factors: "misconduct (ranging from inhumane to sadistic) by a small group of morally corrupt soldiers and civilians, a lack of discipline on the part of leaders and soldiers" and a "failure or lack of leadership" by higher command in Iraq.

The report distinguishes between the abuse depicted in many of the now-famous photographs from the prison, which the military says was committed by a small group of guards and others, and abuses committed during interrogations.

Seven members of the 800th Military Police Brigade, which supplied the guards at the prison, have been charged in connection with the abuses seen the photos.

The report said investigators discovered three more MPs who took part in abuses, and



Former secretary of defense James Schlesinger, left, and retired Gen. Chuck Horner, released a report Tuesday blaming senior defense leaders for lax oversight of military-run prisons in Iraq. A second report released Wednesday faults 27 people involved in the prison abuse scandal.

one more who knew of the mistreatment and did not report it. It also noted that two medics knew of the abuses but did not report them.

About two-thirds of the abuses during interrogations were committed by soldiers who wrongly believed they were using approved techniques or were unclear about what techniques they could legally use, Army officials said.

Fay said that some of the mistreatment amounted to torture. Kern said the most horrific abuse investigators discovered involved military dog handlers using their dogs to try to frighten two Iraqi adolescents into involuntarily fouling themselves.

"This is clearly a deviation from everything we've taught people how to behave," Kern said. "There were failures of leadership, of people seeing these things and not correcting them. There were failures of discipline."

The report attributes some problems to the influence of officials with "other government agencies" — a term frequently used by the Pentagon for the Central Intelligence Agency.

"It is clear that the interrogation practices of other government agencies led to a loss of accountability at Abu Ghraib," the report said.

The nonmilitary interrogators had wider latitude in determining what techniques they could use. They also kept at least eight "ghost detainees" — prisoners concealed from the International Committee of the Red Cross. One of those detainees died during interrogation.

The findings by Lt. Gen. Anthony R. Jones and Fay came a day after an independent panel released a report blaming senior leaders, including Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and Joint Chiefs Chairman Richard Myers, for lax oversight and inattention to the issue of military-run prisons in Iraq. This contributed to the chaos at Abu Ghraib, said members of that panel, led by former Defense Secretary James Schlesinger.

That report, which looked at problems throughout the system of U.S.-run prisons in Iraq, Afghanistan and at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, said about one-third of the substantiated cases of prisoner abuse took place during interrogations.

Kerry calls for secretary to step down

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry on Wednesday renewed his call for Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to resign and urged President Bush to appoint an independent investigation to provide reforms after a report faulted all levels of the military for abuse at Abu Ghraib prison.

"It's not just the little person at the bottom who ought to pay the price of responsibility," Kerry said at a Philadelphia union hall.

A report released Tuesday by an independent panel led by Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger concluded that senior U.S. military leaders in Iraq and the Pentagon can be faulted for inattention to prisoner abuses, but it did not recommend that Rumsfeld step down.

"What is missing from all these reports is accountability from the senior civilian leaders in the Pentagon and in the White House," Kerry said. "From the bottom of the chain of command all the way to the top, there needs to be accountability. The Schlesinger report makes clear that Secretary Rumsfeld was responsible for setting a climate where these types of abuses could occur."

Morales' confession, a prisoner abuse in Iraq came to light, Kerry called for Rumsfeld to resign because of what he said were numerous mistakes in the prosecution of the war.

Charges reduced for GI in Abu Ghraib case

BY DAVID RISING
The Associated Press

MANNHEIM, Germany — A U.S. military policeman accused in the Abu Ghraib prison abuse scandal had the charges against her reduced Wednesday as a set of pretrial hearings wrapped up at an American base in Germany.

The decision by military prosecutors could significantly reduce jail time for Spc. Megan Ambuhl — one of seven Army reservists charged with abuse of Iraqi prisoners — if she is found guilty.

Two counts of cruelty and maltreatment and one of conspiracy had been added after the investigation against Ambuhl was completed, a step her lawyers argued was improper and added a possible three more years of prison time.

Prosecutors had said Monday they would reopen the Article 32 hearing, the military equivalent

of a grand jury investigation. But prosecutor Capt. Christopher Graveline told a pretrial hearing Wednesday the government had changed its mind.

Ambuhl, of Centerville, Va., now faces a possible 7½ years in prison if convicted on one count of conspiracy, dereliction of duty, cruelty and maltreatment and indecent acts.

The hearing made plain that she is mainly accused of failing to intervene or report abuse at the prison outside Baghdad.

"All the charges that remain before the court are complicity and failure to act or report," a military lawyer, Capt. Jennifer Crawford, said in court.

"Spc. Ambuhl is charged basically with inactivity or failure to act," she said. "A natural reaction for a lay person would be: 'I would have done something.'"

Crawford asked the court to appoint a civilian prison psychologist as an expert witness, who she



Spc. Megan Ambuhl

said could help persuade a jury how the conditions at the prison might have affected her client's judgment.

Judge Col. James Pohl rejected her request for the specific expert, but said if the government could not provide an acceptable military counterpart in the coming weeks he would reconsider the motion.

Defense says Marine too sick, weak to have fatally hurt Iraqi POW

BY ROBERT JABLON
The Associated Press

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — A Marine accused of karate-kicking a handcuffed Iraqi POW who later died believed it was his role to show prisoners "who's boss" and to soften them up for interrogation, a prosecutor said Tuesday as the court-martial got under way.

But defense attorneys said during opening arguments that Sgt. Gary Pittman was too sick at the time Nagman Hatab was injured to have harmed him.

Pittman, 40, could get two years in a military prison if found guilty of assault and dereliction of duty in what is believed to be the first court-martial connected to the death of a prisoner in Iraq.

Prosecutor Maj. Leon Frances told the jury nine Marine officers that Pittman kneed, kicked and punched Hatab and other Iraqi prisoners "just as a reprisal and

just because he was angry with them."

Frances said that when an interpreter objected to Pittman's actions, Pittman replied, "These prisoners need to know who's boss."

Defense lawyer Capt. Anders Fogh argued that Pittman was suffering from diarrhea and too weak to injure Hatab. He suggested another Marine, Lance Cpl. William Roy, may have caused the injuries when he allegedly grabbed the inmate by the throat.

Fogh also said two Marines will testify that Hatab did not complain of any pain after the alleged assault, and that a pathologist will testify Hatab's injuries could not have resulted from a single kick.

Hatab had been rumored to be an official of Saddam Hussein's Baath Party and part of the ambush of a U.S. Army convoy that left 11 soldiers dead and led to the capture of Pfc. Jessica Lynch and five others.

Escort: Duty puts unit in line of fire

ESCORT, FROM PAGE 4

having a positive effect on quelling street violence, at least in Baghdad, he said.

Escort duty remains a dangerous job.

The platoon's most intense fight came on June 28, a day none of the soldiers say they will ever forget.

Four Humvees were protecting two civilian vehicles full of U.S. marshals traveling outside of Baghdad.

The soldiers were braced for trouble: A police station nearby had been burned the previous day, said Staff Sgt. Michael Medina.

Intelligence reports suggested the locals were still restless.

"Suddenly, all hell broke loose," Medina said.

The two Humvees in the rear were hit by a roadside bomb. As the smoke cleared, one of the stunned gunners spotted a man in a tree preparing to fire a rocket-propelled grenade. He immediately started firing.

Medina said he was in the front vehicle and "was on the radio, asking what was happening, and all I could hear was shooting."

Seconds later, the two front vehicles got the same treatment as the soldiers in the rear as an IED exploded.

"The bus didn't go any farther ... Every single one of my gunners got a kill that day."

Staff Sgt.

Michael Medina

On ambush

ing into a mess, not away. Then we saw about eight AK-47s sticking out the windows."

The rear vehicle gunners turned their sites on the bus and "Z-patterned it," spraying it with fire.

"The bus didn't go any farther after that," Medina said. "Every single one of my gunners got a kill that day."

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgess@stripes.osd.mil

Crews: No room for fear during risky recovery

CREWS, FROM PAGE 4

buildings.

"I looked at [Zamora] and said, 'OK, it's time to party,'" Benn said. "He knew what I meant. We already had a plan."

The pair took a deep breath, opened the doors of their armored sanctuary and slipped into the firestorm. They raced to the crippled Humvee and began attaching it to the winch of "Hookah."

They worked as fast as they could.

"It took us about seven minutes" to get the vehicle ready to tow, Benn said. "That's hot. That's really hot. Normally, with no pressure, it would be 10 or 15 minutes."

Busy as they were fighting off the ambush, the soldiers providing security couldn't help but marvel at Benn and Zamora's courage.

"All the guys who were watching were really impressed," said Staff Sgt. Theodore Greer, of Compton, Calif. "Bullets were flying over [Benn's] head, but he just kept working."

Such bravery, however, is not only par for the course in the well-seasoned battalion, it's expected, the sergeants said.

"As NCOs, we cannot show fear," Greer said flatly, as Benn and the other sergeants nodded in agreement. "The minute we do show fear, our soldiers lose faith in us."

Glitches cause Iraq visa delays

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A series of computer viruses and other technical glitches have flummoxed Iraq's strict new visa policy, causing foreigners dayslong delays before being granted permission to enter the country.

"There are teething problems as you might imagine," Foreign Ministry spokesman Tahir al-Adhami said Wednesday. "The officers are new and the systems are very new."

Until recently, Iraq was open to all comers. With the exception of visitors from Iran — who were required by U.S. occupation officials to obtain visas in March — anyone who flashed a passport was waved into the country with no restrictions.

But early this month, Iraq launched a tight visa policy, requiring all foreigners other than contractors working on rebuilding projects to get a visa before arriving.

The policy is an attempt to bolster security in Iraq by cataloging the names, photos and occupations of foreigners entering and leaving the country, al-Adhami said. Iraqis have long complained that the relative ease of entry has led to an influx of foreign fighters, criminals and intelligence agents.

Now, some travelers applying for visas in Iraq's clutch of foreign embassies have been told they must fax or e-mail copies of their passports directly to Iraq's foreign ministry in Baghdad, then wait for permission to be sent to the embassy.

Messages of Support

★ May God Bless you one and all. We cannot express how much we appreciate your bravery. Godspeed. God Bless America and our troops! God Bless your families.

★ I LOVE YOU! WE LOVE YOU! WE KNOW YOU ARE COMING HOME TO US AND SOON! YOU ALL BE SAFE OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU! I MISS YOU SO MUCH! YOUR SISTER, MELISSA

★ Hola from New Mexico: We are praying for all of you to return safely. God be with you all — to our beloved son Stay Strong — Stay Focused — We LOVE you and are very PROUD of you. Hope you get our mail soon.

★ Hi, Jamarr! This is Hollenbeck's mom writing to say how very proud we are of you. Stay safe and remember we appreciate your sacrifices to liberate the Iraqi people and make the world safer for everyone. Semper Fi, —Connie Hollenbeck

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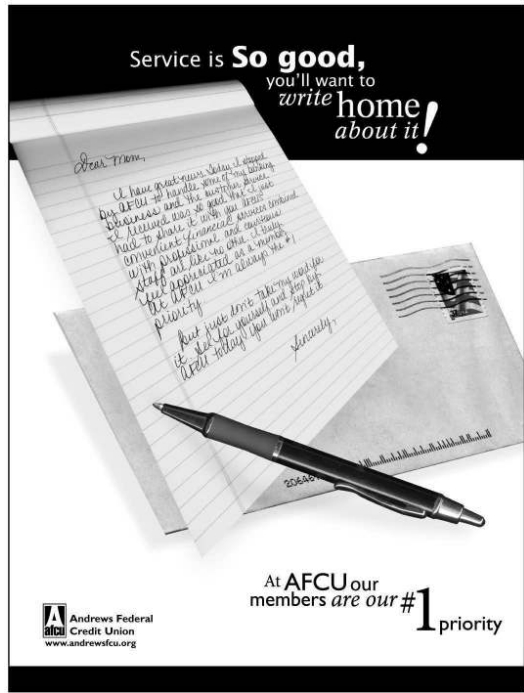


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Final closing time at bar upsets patrons

Popular Patch Barracks watering hole Backlot to shut down in October for financial, safety reasons

BY CHARLIE COON

Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — The way the regulars see it, they're going to pave paradise and put up a parking lot.

"They've been trying to close this place for years; now they're trying to do it on the sneaky side," said Jerry Stottlemire, who has been patronizing the Backlot, a watering hole at Patch Barracks, on and off for 30 years.

The bar is to close in October for financial and safety reasons, according to an e-mailed response from the 6th Area Support Group, which oversees operation of the pub. The site is scheduled to be demolished in January, and a parking lot put in its place.

Patrons said they learned the Backlot was closing from the man who maintains its slot machines. He informed the patrons that the machines were being moved to the nearby Patch Community Club.

"They (base officials) are going to hurt themselves," Stottlemire said. "All they're going to do is upset a lot of people because the atmosphere here [at the Backlot] is completely different than the other two clubs [at Patch]."

The Backlot has operated at a loss of \$146,000 over the past three years, according to the ASG. The loss does not include its lucrative slot-machine revenue, which the ASG called "by far the highest" of any establishment on base.

According to the 6th ASG, the community club lost \$89,000 over the same three-year period, while a third Patch drinking establishment, the Swabian Special Events Center, made a profit of \$22,000.



Stottlemire

The Backlot bar also required \$544,000 in repairs to its electric and fire-safety systems to stay open, according to the ASG. That money would be better spent on other services, it said.

Backlot customers said the base has been pouring money for years into the Swabian, a former officers club, and the community club, where two restaurants have failed in the past five years.

The Backlot's kitchen was closed five years ago by the 6th ASG.

"When they had lunches here, there'd be a line out the door," Stottlemire said.

Despite the loss of the kitchen, the Backlot kept chugging along. Patrons built a patio in back and a small conference room inside. They painted the place and installed heat, air-conditioning and exhaust systems.

The kitchen opened for parties to celebrate promotions, departures and retirements. No one was charged to bring food and use the kitchen; they just had to clean up afterward.

Inside, flags from different states donated by patrons hang from the ceiling. Harley-Davidson memorabilia and state license plates decorate the place, too. An American Legion wall has pictures of all the presidents from Harry S. Truman through George W. Bush. Certificates of appreciation from past fund-raisers line the walls.

For the past 2½ years, the local American Legion has served pancake breakfasts on Sunday mornings.

Plans are for the fund-raising pancake breakfasts and profitable slot machines to be moved to the community club around the corner, according to Gary Miller, a retired Air Force master sergeant from Buffalo, N.Y., and a Backlot patron.

"If they had started putting money into [the Backlot] and stopped putting it into the other places," he said, "maybe it would be a different story."

E-mail Charlie Coon at: cooncc@mail.stripes.osd.mil



CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

The Backlot bar at Patch Barracks in Stuttgart, Germany, which has been in business since the 1960s, is being closed by base officials, who cited financial and safety reasons.

Aviano baseball tourney big hit with youth teams

BY KENT HARRIS

Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — Baseball's popularity is growing in Italy and Americans found that out firsthand last weekend.

Volunteers organized a two-day tournament for youths at Aviano last week and, according to organizers, about 300 Italian and American players and family members showed up.

"I had to turn down six other teams that wanted to come," said Tech. Sgt. Bruce Brown, one of the organizers.

As it was, four Italian teams played with a team of American counterparts in the 10- to 12-year-old age bracket, and three teams squared off against a group of 13- to 16-year-old Americans.

None of those participating — including the Americans — are affiliated with Little League baseball, which is currently holding its World Series in the States.

Brown said many Italian communities have youth baseball teams. Teams from Aviano have been playing them and traveling to their tournaments since shortly

after the 31st Fighter Wing activated in Aviano in 1994. Over the years, teams from Aviano have also played against squads from the Czech Republic, Croatia and Slovenia.

Brown said there were a host of logistical factors in hosting a tournament on base. Fields were not a problem: The base has six, which are set to host the U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Army-Air Force softball championships in the next two weeks.

Getting the Italians on base, better than getting them sheltered in the nearby gym during a downpour Saturday and setting up a giant potluck dinner all provided challenges.

Because of the inclement weather Saturday, most games were played Sunday, with an Italian team from San Lorenzo winning the younger category and a squad from Trieste grabbing the crown for older players.

Brown said organizers hope to hold the tournament again next July and, if logistics can be worked out, invite more teams to participate.

E-mail Kent Harris at: harrisr@mail.stripes.osd.mil



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Vogelweh AAFES to give away Harley on Sept. 19

BY TERRY BOYD

Stars and Stripes

BAUMHOLDER, Germany — Dreaming of riding Europe's winding back roads, your Harley rumbling steadily through the curves?

At the worst, you have a 1-in-10,000 chance of living the fantasy.

Army and Air Force Exchange Service and Air Force Exchange at Ramstein Air Base are giving away a new Harley-Davidson on Sept. 19, at the Vogelweh AAFES New Cars Sales as a charity fund-raiser.

Milwaukee-based Harley-Davidson Motor Co. is donating a motorcycle to AAFES' New Car Sales, said Steve Kyle, service business manager.

In turn, three Air Force organizations — Chiefs' Group, First

Sergeants Council and the Company Grade Officers' Council — are helping sell 10,000 chances for \$1 each, Kyle said. Proceeds will go to three Air Force charities: Ramstein Area Chiefs' Group Scholarship Program, Holiday Cheer and Friends of Family Support.

Last March, for a motorcycle giveaway in April, ticket sales — which raised \$8,000 after printing costs — were conducted only at Ramstein and Kaiserslautern Military Community/Vogelweh.

This fall's event will expand to Baumholder, Kyle said. It will be the first time AAFES has had two such raffles in one year; the one earlier this year was the ninth annual Harley giveaway, he said.

"We added another this year. New Car Sales kind of twisted Harley's arm to give a second bike because we have so many troops returning" from deploy-

ments in Iraq, Kyle said. Troops assigned to the 2nd Brigade and Division Artillery of the 1st Armored Division returned in June to Baumholder from a 15-month Iraq deployment.

Tickets go on sale at the Baumholder post exchange this weekend. Kyle predicted chances will sell out before the September drawing. "We've still got a couple of good weekends," he said.

Those weekends include the Officers Wives Club Bazaar at Ramstein the weekend of the drawing. The bazaar typically draws thousands of people from across the U.S. military community.

The April Harley giveaway, supported by the Army Sergeants Major Association, raised money for Special Olympics and the Fisher House Foundation.

Learn more at www.armystripes.com
boyd@armystripes.com



Courtesy of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service

A huge crowd showed up for the annual Harley-Davidson giveaway in April at the Vogelweh shopping complex in Kaiserslautern, Germany. A second giveaway, a first for AAFES, will be held in September.

Chief petty officer dropped one pay rate for drunken driving

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain — A Navy chief petty officer was dropped a pay rate after admitting during a court-martial hearing Wednesday that he was drunk when he backed his vehicle into a pier security barricade.

Chief Petty Officer Nikita R. Riles, an information technician in Rota, pleaded guilty to driving with a blood-alcohol reading of 0.21, more than twice the legal limit.

He told the Navy judge, Capt. Dave White, that on June 19 he went bar-hopping with a friend, whose ship was making a port visit. After driving to the city of El Puerto de Santa Maria and to another bar

in Rota, he dropped his friend off at the base pier. When he put his Isuzu Rodeo in reverse to leave, he ran into the concrete barrier.

He stopped, surveyed the damage and drove away, he said. But security guards at the pier called base police, who apprehended Riles. Patrol officers testified that Riles was traveling around 60 mph down a main base road.

The defense attorney, Lt. Scott Stoenber, estimated Riles would lose \$90,000 in retirement pay over a 20-year period because of the reduction. Riles, who joined the Navy at 17, is two years from retirement.

Two other related charges were dropped during the hearing.

E-mail Scott Schonauer at: schonauer@armystripes.com

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IN THE WORLD

Twin airliners crash in Russia; 89 killed

Security authorities investigate whether terrorism is a possibility

BY MIKE ECKEL

The Associated Press

BUCHALKI, Russia — Russian emergency workers searched heaps of twisted metal and tall grass Wednesday for clues about what caused two airliners to plunge to earth within minutes of each other, killing all 89 people aboard. Officials said one jet sent a hijack distress signal, raising fears terrorists had struck.

Flight recorders from both planes were found and taken to Moscow for investigation. ITAR-Tass reported, indicating the question of what caused the twin disasters soon could be answered.

Russian security authorities said that explosives specialists were still working at the scene of the crashes. They reported that terrorism remained a possible cause, although there was no evidence so far that terrorists were behind the tragedies.

Federal Security Service spokesman Sergei Ignatchenko said investigators were still questioning airport officials and airline and security employees at Domodedovo Airport, from which both flights left 45 minutes apart.

The airport on Moscow's far south side operates a single terminal that serves both international and domestic flights. Both flights were serviced at and left from the domestic section.

The service, known as the FSB, is a successor agency to the KGB.

Officials there said they were investigating other possibilities such as technical failures, the use of poor quality fuel, breaches of fueling regulations and pilot error. Rain and thunder was reported in the regions where both crashes occurred.

Rebels fighting a protracted war for independence for Chechnya, the troubled southern Russian province, have been blamed for a series of terror strikes that have claimed hundreds of lives in Russia in recent years. But rebel representative Akhmed Zakayev told Russia's Ekho Moskvy radio from London that Chechen forces and rebel leader Aslan Maskhadov were not connected to the crashes.

Russian officials had expressed concern that separatists in the war-ravaged republic might carry out attacks ahead of a regional election Sunday to replace its pro-Moscow president who was killed in a May bombing.

A Sibir airlines Tu-154 jet, carrying 46 people, took off from Moscow's newly redeveloped Domodedovo airport at 9:35 p.m. Tuesday and the other plane, a Tu-134 carrying 43 people, left 40 minutes later, according to state-run Rossiya television. The Tu-134 was headed to the southern city of Volgograd, while the other plane was flying to the Black Sea resort city of Sochi, where President Vladimir Putin is vacationing.

Volgograd is an industrial city on the Volga River and was formerly known as Stalingrad. It was the scene of one of World War II's bloodiest battles, in which the Russians turned back German troops that were advancing on oil fields at the Caspian Sea.

Putin returned to Moscow on Wednesday evening and met with chief prosecutor Vladimir Ustinov, who told him authorities were considering terrorism, technical problems or human error as possible causes of the crashes. Putin announced that Thursday would be a day of mourning. The Interfax news agency reported.

The planes disappeared from radar screens about 11:00 p.m., and by early Wednesday morning, the wreckage of both had been found — with no survivors. Domodedovo airport said in a statement that both planes "went through the standard procedure of preparation for flight ... [and] the procedures were carried out properly."

Uncertainty over the cause of the crashes came after Sibir (which means Siberia) said that it was notified that its jet had activated a hijack or seizure signal shortly before disappearing from radar screens. Officials said the crew of the other plane gave no indication that anything was wrong, but witnesses on the ground reported hearing a series of explosions.

"There were three loud bangs

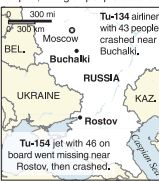
on the window, like someone knocking," said Nikolai Gorokhov, a local resident who was in his home at the time of the crash.

Security was tightened at Russian airports, where extra security officers and sniffer dogs were called in to check passengers and luggage, as well as other transport hubs and public places.

At about the same time the Tu-154 disappeared, the Tu-134 airliner crashed in the Tula region, about 125 miles south of Moscow, officials said. ITAR-Tass reported that the authorities believe the Tu-134 fell from an altitude of 32,800 feet. Wreckage of the Sochi-bound Tu-154 was found in the Rostov region, about 600 miles south of Moscow, about nine hours after it disappeared.

Russian airliners go down

A Russian airliner crashed and another broke up in the air Tuesday night after taking off from Moscow's Domodedovo airport, killing all people aboard.



SOURCE: ESRI

AP

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Stars and Stripes

Messages of Support

★ Brad, (U.S. ARMY Special Services) Not sure if or when you will read this- Stay strong and safe and remember you are in our thoughts and prayers 24/7. You mom (Funch) seems to be doing ok (a lil better than the last time you were deployed) we'll keep in touch with her. WE LOVE YOU BUNGHOLIO! Love, Steph, Mitch, Christian, Kinsey & BigBoy

★ HI BABY WE MISS YOU AND ARE VERY PROUD OF YOU. HURRY HOME SOON AUNT LALA PENNY JASON AND PAIGEY SHE WANT HER ARMOR GUY HOME SHE MISS HIM. HAPPY HAPPY DAY SHEILA

★ I am writing to give you my heartfelt thanks and all of my love for doing what you are doing. It takes a strong and loyal person to go to another country and put your life on the line for your Country. My prayers are with all of you day and night. I hope a war goes quickly and all of our troops come home safely. Again THANK YOU FOR SAVING US. All of my love, Melody Rudman and Family.



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Saturdays

STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

Paris recalls euphoria of WWII liberation

BY ELAINE GANLEY

The Associated Press

PARIS — Paris turned back the clock Wednesday for a grandiose fete to remember the tears, the joy and the euphoria that heralded the liberation of the French capital 60 years ago as it threw off the shackles of Nazi occupation.

Ceremonies expected to draw thousands of people into the streets began with six firefighters hoisting the French tricolor atop the Eiffel Tower, re-enacting the emotional moments of Aug. 25, 1944, when the national flag was again displayed after four years of German rule.

Recreating the moment was intended to honor the six firefighters who carried out the dramatic gesture on liberation day.

When the Nazis first marched into town, they ordered the flag pulled down. The man who reluctantly followed Nazi orders and took it down on June 13, 1940, was Capt. Lucien Sarniguet — and he had vowed to raise it again one day.

"He swore that he would be the one to put it back up. He kept his word," said Sarniguet's daughter, Jeanne-Marie Badoche, 77, who attended the ceremony with her family. "For four long years, he waited for that day."

Sarniguet had a flag fashioned out of



Firefighters dressed in World War II uniforms Wednesday reenacted the hoisting of the French flag atop the Eiffel Tower done on Aug. 25, 1944, upon France's liberation from Nazi Germany. Ceremonies marked the 60th anniversary of the liberation.

dyed sheets and hid it during the Nazi occupation and he didn't find it, she said.

Pierre Noel, one of two surviving fire-

fighters out of the original six, attended Wednesday's ceremony, proudly displaying a chest full of medals. He received the City of Paris' highest honor — the Grand

Vernier Medal — from Mayor Bertrand Delanoë.

Paris also was honoring its liberators — Resistance fighters who took their clandestine battle to the streets and French and American soldiers whose military might assured victory.

Paris — shamed, hungry and on its knees for four years during World War II — was still standing on liberation day, spared Adolf Hitler's threat of demolition.

The main ceremony of the multifaceted commemoration was to be held at City Hall late Wednesday, with President Jacques Chirac paying tribute to veterans and Resistance fighters before 4,000 guests.

With the liberation, "Paris again became a city of light," said noted director Jerome Savary, who enlisted 1,000 Parisians for celebrations that are to crisscross the city and end with a street ball.

Solemnity also was in order. More than 1,400 Parisians — including 582 civilians — were killed in street battles, according to the Jean Moulin Museum. Some 3,200 Nazis were killed.

At the Place de la Concorde, Chirac paid special tribute to Gen. Philippe Leclerc's 2nd Armored Division, greeting some 600 soldiers — including 100 veterans — who, starting Tuesday, retraced the soldiers' journey into the capital.



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AN ARMY OF ONE

Mark Thatcher charged in alleged coup plot

Margaret Thatcher's son reportedly provided financing to overthrow African government

BY ELLIOTT SYLVESTER

The Associated Press

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — Mark Thatcher, the son of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, was arrested Wednesday and charged with helping to overthrow the government of oil-rich Equatorial Guinea.

since Monday are charged with attempting to assassinate a head of state, illegal possession of arms and explosives, terrorism, treason and endangering the public.

A lead defendant, South African arms dealer Nick du Toit, testified Wednesday that he attended a July 2003 meeting in South

Africa with Thatcher and Simon Mann of Britain, who is on trial in Zimbabwe as the alleged head of the plot.

But Thatcher only showed interest in buying military helicopters for a mining enterprise in Sudan, said du Toit, who faces the death penalty for his alleged role in the

plot. "This was a normal business deal," du Toit testified.

Obiang's 25-year-old regime — accused by the U.S. State Department and others of torture and other abuses — is at the center of an oil boom in the Gulf of Guinea. The region is estimated to hold 10 percent of the world's oil re-

serves, and some of its most corrupt governments.

Since the development of Equatorial Guinea's oil industry began in the mid-1990s, the rain-soaked nation of just 500,000 people has enjoyed one of the fastest economic growth rates in the world, at up to 70 percent a year.



Thatcher

Court, where he was charged with violating South Africa's Foreign Military Assistance Act.

"We have evidence, credible evidence, and information that he was involved in the attempted coup," police spokesman Sipho Ngwema said before the arraignment. "We refuse that South Africa be a springboard for coups in Africa and elsewhere."

Thatcher was placed under house arrest and given until Sept. 8 to post bail of 2 million rands, or nearly \$300,000.

Defense lawyer Peter Hodes said Thatcher was arrested on suspicion of providing financing for a helicopter linked to the coup plot. "He will plead not guilty," Hodes said.

Thatcher's court appearance was delayed when he was robbed of his shoes, jacket and cell phone in a crowded holding cell, according to a court official who witnessed the attack. Thatcher did not appear to have been injured and police were seeking to recover the items, the witness said.

Thatcher, who has a twin sister and is the only son of Lady Thatcher and the late Denis Thatcher, was in his pajamas when police arrived at his home in the upscale suburb of Constantia and he was allowed to take a shower before they began examining his records and computers, Ngwema said.

Thatcher is accused of helping finance a plot to oust President Teodoro Obiang of Equatorial Guinea, which authorities say was foiled in March. "We believe Mr. Thatcher assisted in finance and logistics," Ngwema said.

Equatorial Guinea, Africa's third-largest oil producer, put 19 people on trial this week for the alleged plot. One other defendant died in custody under suspicious circumstances. Seventy other accused mercenaries are on trial separately in Zimbabwe.

At the trial, a lawyer representing the government said the country would be interested in extraditing Thatcher. But no arrest warrant has been announced.

The 19 defendants on trial



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IN THE STATES

Report supports Kerry boat story

BY MATT KELLEY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Navy task force overseeing John Kerry's swift boat squadron in Vietnam reported that his group of boats came under enemy fire during a March 13, 1969, incident that three decades later is being challenged by the Democratic presidential nominee's critics.

The March 18, 1969, weekly report from Task Force 115, which was located by The Associated Press during a search of Navy archives, is the latest document to surface that supports Kerry's description of an event for which he won a Bronze Star and a third Purple Heart.

The Task Force report twice mentions the incident five days earlier and both times calls it "an enemy initiated firefight" that included automatic weapons fire and underwater mines used against a group of five boats that included Kerry's.

Task Force 115 was commanded at the time by retired Rear Adm. Roy Hoffmann, the founder of the group Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, which has been running ads challenging Kerry's account of the episode.

A member of the group, Larry

Thurlow, said Tuesday he stood by his assertion that there was no enemy fire that day.

Thurlow, the commander of another boat who also won a Bronze Star, said task force commanders probably relied on the initial report of the incident. Thurlow says Kerry wrote that report.

The document, part of thousands of pages of records housed at the Naval Historical Center, is one of several that say Kerry and other servicemen were shot at from the banks of the Bay Hap River on March 13, 1969. The Associated Press located the document Tuesday during a search of available records.

Earlier this month, Swift Boat Veterans for Truth aired a television ad claiming Kerry lied about the circumstances surrounding his medals. Several members of the group who were aboard nearby boats that March 13 said in the ad and in affidavits that there was no enemy gunfire during the incident.

The anti-Kerry group has not produced any official Navy documents supporting that claim, however. The man Kerry rescued, Jim Rassman, and the crew of Kerry's boat all say there was gunfire from both banks of the river at the time.



Democratic presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., left, appears on Comedy Central's "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" on Tuesday night. Kerry joked about holding his inauguration on the show.

Kerry makes fake news debut

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — After weeks of charge and countercharge in the presidential campaign, comedian Jon Stewart tried Tuesday to get to the bottom of the debate over Democrat John Kerry's military service in Vietnam.

"I watch a lot of the cable news shows, so I understand that you were never in Vietnam," asked Stewart, host of Comedy Central's "The Daily Show."

"That's what I understand, too, but I'm trying to find out what happened," Kerry joked.

As Kerry launched into one of his lengthy monologues about why President Bush avoids talking about issues like the economy, jobs and the environment, the comedian interrupted.

"I'm sorry," Stewart said. "Were you or were you not in Cambodia?"

Stewart and Kerry then leaned in to stare each other down over the comedian's desk before Stewart asked about some of the other things Kerry's opponents are saying about him.

"Are you the number one most liberal senator in the Senate?" he asked, joking about claims that Kerry is "more liberal than Karl Marx, apparently."

"No," Kerry answered.

Stewart also sought answers to another hard-hitting question: "Is it true that every time I use ketchup, your wife gets a nickel?" The candidate's wife, Teresa Heinz Kerry, is heir to the Heinz food fortune.

"Would that be true," Kerry said.

When the conversation turned serious, Stewart asked Kerry how he would counter Bush's ability in debates to turn issues into a choice between his position and the opposition.

Kerry said the debates would be a challenge. "The president has won every debate he's ever had," Kerry said.

Kerry offered an interesting observation on life as a presidential candidate.

"You'd be amazed at the number of people who want to introduce themselves to you in the men's room," he said. "It's the most bizarre part of this entire thing."

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Bush election lawyer quits

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An election lawyer for President Bush who also has been advising a veterans group running TV ads against Democrat John Kerry resigned Wednesday from Bush's campaign.

"I cannot begin to express my sadness that my legal representations have become a distraction from the critical issues at hand in this election," Benjamin Ginsberg wrote in a resignation letter to Bush released by the campaign.

"I feel I cannot let that continue, so I have decided to resign as national counsel to your campaign to ensure that the giving of legal advice to decorated military veterans, which was entirely within the boundaries of the law, doesn't distract from the real issues ..."

Ginsberg's acknowledgment Tuesday evening that he was providing legal advice to the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth marked the second time in days that a person associated with the Bush-Cheney campaign had been connected to the group, which Kerry accuses of being a front for the Republican incumbent's re-election effort.

The Bush campaign and the veterans' group have said repeatedly that there is no coordination.

Lawyers on the Democratic side are also representing both the campaign or party and outside groups running ads in the presidential race. Ginsberg's dual role has drawn attention because of an ad the group ran accusing Kerry of exaggerating his Vietnam War record.

Messages of Support

★ I wanted to write and let you know how much the people here appreciate what you are doing. We stand behind you, and we are praying everyday for the accomplishment of your mission, AND your quick and safe return. There is a huge amount of respect and support for you. Thank you again.
Lori Miller

Cheney's gay marriage talk draws criticism

BY TODD DVORAK
The Associated Press

DAVENPORT, Iowa — Vice President Dick Cheney, whose daughter Mary is a lesbian, drew criticism from both proponents and foes of gay marriage Tuesday after he distanced himself from President Bush's call for a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage.

At a campaign rally in this Mississippi River town, Cheney spoke supportively about gay relationships, saying "freedom means freedom for everyone," when asked about his stand on gay marriage.

"Lyne and I have a gay daughter, so it's an issue our family is very familiar with," Cheney told an audience that included his daughter.

"The question that comes up with the



Cheney

constitutional amendment prohibiting gay marriage, a move Cheney says was prompted by various judicial rulings, including the action in Massachusetts that made gay marriage legal.

issue of marriage is, what kind of official sanction or approval is going to be granted by government? Historically, that's been a relationship that has been handled by the states. The states have made that fundamental decision of what constitutes a marriage," he said.

Addressing Bush's position on the amendment, Cheney said: "At this point, say, my own preference is as I've stated, but the president makes policy for the administration. He's made it clear that he does, in fact, support a constitutional amendment on this issue."

Those comments drew criticism from the conservative Family Research Council, with President Tony Perkins saying, "I find it hard to believe the vice president would stray from the administration's position on defense policy or tax policy. For many pro-family voters, protecting traditional marriage ranks ahead of the economy and job creation as a campaign issue."

Steven Fisher, spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign, a gay and lesbian advocacy group, said Cheney's remarks

show a stark difference with Bush's efforts "to put discrimination in the Constitution."

"President Bush is feeling the heat. The administration has been using gay Americans to drive a wedge into the electorate. There are millions of American families who have gay family members and friends, who are offended by the president's use of discrimination," Fisher said.

Cheney said the amendment did not have the votes to pass, but he also said the federal Defense of Marriage Act, which President Clinton signed into law in 1996, may be enough.

Sens. John Kerry of Massachusetts and John Edwards of North Carolina oppose the amendment. The Democratic candidates also oppose gay marriage, but defend a gay couple's rights to the same legal protections as those conferred in marriage.

Study: Soda linked to weight gain, diabetes in women

BY ROB STEIN
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Women who drink non-diet soda or fruit punch every day gain weight quickly and face a sharply elevated risk of getting diabetes, according to a major study released Tuesday.

The study of more than 50,000 U.S. nurses found that those who drank just one soda or fruit punch a day tended to gain much

more weight than those who drank less than one a month, and had more than an 80 percent increased risk of developing the most common form of diabetes. The risk pertained to drinks sweetened with either sugar or high-fructose corn syrup.

Neither diet soda nor non-sweetened fruit juices appear to carry the same risks, the researchers found. Although the study involved only women, the researchers believed that the

risks also hold for men.

Other experts agreed, saying the study represented a milestone in the debate over soft drink consumption, which has skyrocketed in the past 20 years in parallel with the rising obesity epidemic.

The sugar and beverage industries said the study was fundamentally flawed. "The conclusions from this study are scientifically unsound and they are at odds with all that's known in the

scientific community," said Richard Adamson, vice president for scientific and technical affairs at the American Beverage Association. "These allegations are inflammatory."

Any increased risk for diabetes in the study could be attributed to the weight the women gained, not their sugar intake, said Charles Baker, vice president for scientific affairs for the Sugar Association.

Data collected from 51,603

women over an average of four years found that the women who gained the most weight were those who increased their consumption of non-diet drinks from one or fewer per week to one or more per day, the researchers found.

In addition, those who had one or more drinks containing sugar or corn syrup per day were 83 percent more likely to develop Type 2 diabetes, compared with those who drank less than one such drink per month.

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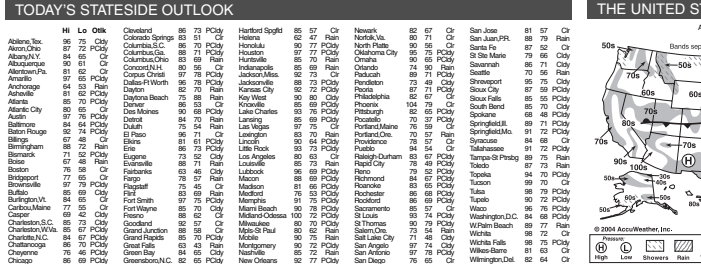
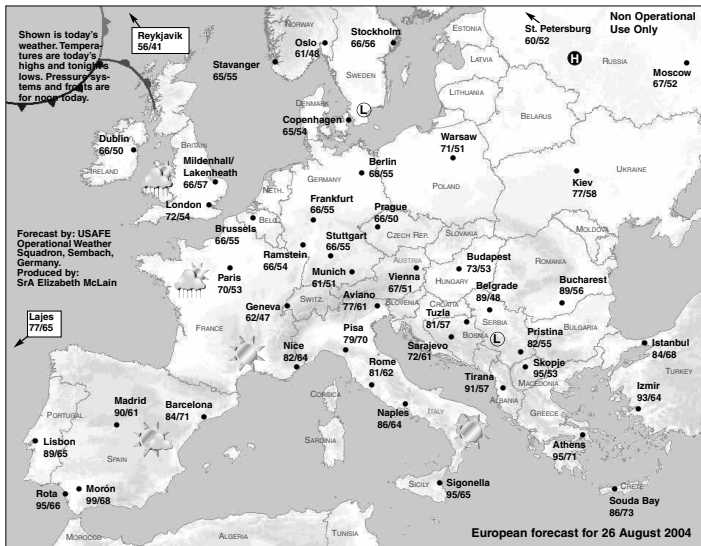
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Go to www.hescobastion.com and follow the link to the competition mini-site. You'll find all the competition rules for entry, and some useful information on the kind of photographs we'd like to see.

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EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Mostly cloudy with rain-showers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid to upper 60s, Friday lows in the low 50s to low 60s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy with rain-showers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 60s to low 70s, Friday lows in the low to upper 50s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Mostly cloudy with thunderstorms. Highs in the low 70s to low 80s, Friday lows in the upper 50s to low 60s.

France: Mostly cloudy with rain-showers in the north and sunny in the south. Highs in the upper 60s to low 80s, Friday lows in the upper 40s to mid 60s.

Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy with rain-showers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid to upper 60s, Friday lows in the mid 50s.

Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy with rain-showers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the low to upper 60s, Friday lows in the low to mid 50s.

Hungary: Mostly cloudy with rain-showers. Highs in the low 70s, Friday lows in the low 50s.

Northern Italy: Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 70s, Friday lows in the low 50s to low 70s.

Southern Italy: Sunny. Highs in the low to upper 80s, Friday lows in the low to mid 60s.

Kosovo: Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the low 80s, Friday lows in the mid 50s.

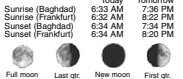
Norway: Mostly cloudy with rain-showers. Highs in the low to mid 60s, Friday lows in the upper 40s to mid 50s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s to upper 90s, Friday lows in the mid 50s to low 70s.

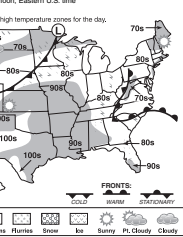
Turkey: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s to low 90s, Friday lows in the mid 60s to low 70s.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at:
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Mistaken fund cuts

LA NEW ORLEANS — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency officials said they mistakenly proposed to cut funds to three estuary programs in Texas and Louisiana in an effort to plug holes in a \$3.5 million deficit.

Last week, letters were sent to the three programs saying funding would be cut by about \$56,000 for each one, which is about 11 percent of their annual budgets.

EPA's regional office that covers Texas and Louisiana proposed the cuts to make up for a deficit of \$1 million for salaries and \$2.5 million for operating costs, said Miguel Flores, director of EPA's regional water quality protection division.

The estuary programs — the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program in Louisiana and the Galveston Bay Program and Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program in Texas — are part of the National Estuary Program.

Upon review, Flores said his agency realized that NEP funding could not be touched.

Submerged-car death

VT KILLINGTON — A North Clarendon man was found dead inside his vehicle, which was submerged in a sewage pond.

State police were called by workers at the maintenance building at the Sunrise Homeowners Association in Killington.

Police said Christian Hansen, 45, an employee of the maintenance building, was reported missing and so was his vehicle. Co-workers suspected that the vehicle may have accidentally been driven into a sewage pond adjacent to the maintenance building.

Beating the system

TX BROWNSVILLE — South Texas college students looking to save money are heading to Mexico to copy their textbooks before returning them for a refund.

Jules Frapart, general manager of the Book Bee in Brownsville, said students commonly buy books from him, copy them in Matamoros, Mexico, and return them.

An employee at Papeleria La Esplanada in Matamoros said it costs 3.5 U.S. cents per page to copy a book. Pasting or binding the book costs \$2.36. That adds up to less than \$13 to copy a 300-page book.

Textbooks range in price from \$20 to more than \$100 at Frapart's store in Brownsville.

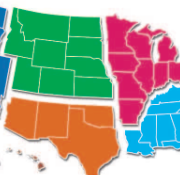
Ready for candidates

WI MADISON — Wisconsin cities are shelling out tens of thousands of dollars to keep President Bush and Democratic rival John Kerry safe as they make stop after stop in the Dairy State.

The visits force cities to absorb thousands of dollars in overtime for police, paramedics and street crews. Several cities are contemplating billing the campaigns, although federal law doesn't require campaigns to pay.

Park road closed

MT WEST GLACIER — A 6-mile stretch of the popu-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

lar Going-to-the-Sun Road in Glacier National Park remained closed following a series of weekend mud and rock slides, park officials said. The road from the Loop to Logan Pass on the west side is expected to remain closed through midweek while crews attempt to remove an estimated 200 truckloads of debris.

Dangerous curves

NC SPARTA — The Blue Ridge Parkway has become the scene of an increasing number of motorcycle wrecks that rangers say probably are the result of inexperienced or inattentive drivers on the winding mountain highway.

The parkway's sometimes steep grades and changes in radius can prove tricky. More often than not, motorcycle accidents are happening at or below the parkway's 45-mph speed limit, rangers say.

Some, including a fatal accident last week, have been on straight stretches of road on dry, clear days. Ten people died on motorcycles from 1998-2000, the most recent years for which accident figures are available.

Sex ring busted

ME SACO — A Saco woman's report of a sexual assault



Guard dog

A Silky Yorkie named Pooh relaxes by an award-winning vintage 1936 Chevrolet Low Cab owned by Roger Mills, of Floresville, Texas, during the 4th annual Big Bands and Cool Cars event in Kerrville, Texas.

led police to a Skowhegan man they say was running a prostitution ring from his mobile home, using a cellular telephone and the Internet.

Police arrested James R. Taylor, 47, on a charge of promoting prostitution after allegedly taking money as payment for a liaison between a man and the woman, who was employed by Taylor's Escorts and Entertainers service.

Police say the 23-year-old woman, who also worked at a Portland gentlemen's club, reported that she had been sexually assaulted by a man who did not pay her for sexual services.

Taylor also was charged with possession of drugs including cocaine, opiates and marijuana.

Man, nephew found dead

TX DALLAS — A man and his nephew were found shot to death at a residence where hundreds of roosters were being kept.

Authorities said they had few details but believed the two were feeding the roosters when they were shot.

The bodies were found by a relative, Dallas Police Sgt. A.R. Martinez, said.

"We're just trying to work what we have and it's not too much right now," he said.

The shootings occurred in a rural area of Dallas.

Campaign fund changes

OH COLUMBUS — Gov. Bob Taft and Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell are again calling for sweeping changes to the way campaigns are funded in Ohio. Both want public disclosure of the names of all contributors to independent ad campaigns and political party operating accounts. The accounts fund salaries, building maintenance and activities meant to strengthen political parties.

Prison for beating mom

GA MARIETTA — Steven Bone became the first person to be sentenced for physically abusing an elderly person under a state law that makes such crimes a felony.

Bone, 41, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for mistreating his mother and threatening to kill her if she complained about him stealing her Social Security checks.

Geneva Bone, 71, was kept locked in a bedroom and deprived of food.

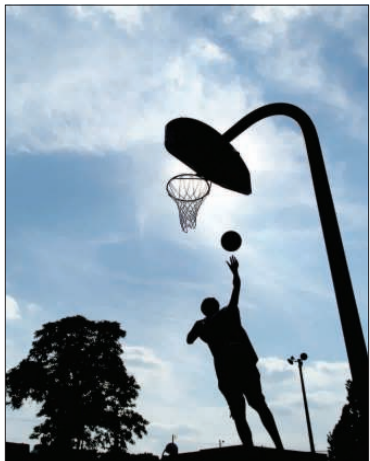
West Nile virus alert

HI HONOLULU — State health officials are asking island doctors to be on the lookout for any cases of West Nile virus.

The Department of Health said there have been no cases of the disease reported in Hawaii.

However, there has been a rise in the number of cases along the West Coast, which increases the risk of the disease finding its way to Hawaii, officials said.

The sometimes-fatal disease is spread by the bite of infected mosquitoes. People, birds and other animals can become infected, but West Nile virus isn't transmitted from person to person or from birds to people.



Laying it in

Joshua Braxton shoots a basketball at Randolph Community Center in Richmond, Va.



Heavy lifting

Jared Lacko, 4, runs with a cube of air in Bristol, Conn., during the city's heritage festival.



Paddling in the Potomac Surfers and kayakers, with the Key Bridge in the background, take on the Potomac River along the banks of Washington, D.C. It was a part of the Capital Chapter of Surfrider Foundation's 10th Annual Paddle For Clean Water, for awareness on pollution problems along Potomac, Anacostia watersheds, the Bay and Atlantic beaches.



Nice shades Cujo, a teacup Chihuahua, peers over sunglasses prior to competing in the swimsuit competition at the Doggie Splash in Abilene, Texas.



Cowabunga! Mike Royal lands a jump during the 2004 U.S. National Disabled Water Ski Championships in Fergus Falls, Minn. Royal was competing in the V-2/3 division for the visually impaired.



Sunflower feast A bumble bee prepares to land on a large sunflower in Yellow Springs, Ohio.

Banning rentals

TX GALVESTON — Some Texas Gulf Coast communities are joining a nationwide trend of banning short-term rentals of vacation homes in an effort to protect the peace and quiet of their neighborhoods.

But some critics say the trend could cost cities hundreds of thousands of dollars in hotel occupancy taxes that they use for cleaning and patrolling beaches and could drive investors out of the beach-and-bay real estate market.

In 2003, the total local hotel and motel tax, which would include homes and corporate-owned properties, totaled \$2.7 million, with a state rebate of \$1.3 million to the island.

Hurricane brings stork

VA CHARLOTTESVILLE — Hurricane Isabel wasn't all bad, apparently.

Martha Jefferson Hospital is reporting record numbers of births for June and July, and Isabel can take the credit.

The math works," said Ann Nickles, Martha Jefferson's spokeswoman.

Isabel slammed Virginia on Sept. 18, 2003. There were 168 births in June, and 163 in July — about 20 more than usual for each month. When Isabel struck, Martha Jefferson nurses said they knew they'd be facing a storm of their own nine months later.

"Historically, when we have power outages or snowstorms, we'll see a burst of babies," nurse Kim Smith said. "With Isabel, the power was out for a long time."

New home for bears

RI ATTLEBORO — They helped put Capron Park Zoo on the map, but now it's time for the sloth-bear parents to bid adieu to their twin cubs.

Zoo officials separated the twin female cubs from their parents and started looking for a new home for them when mating season began earlier this year because they feared that Dad might take a liking to one of them.

The 19-month-old cubs are not only too young to have children of their own, but zoo director Shiraz Marcure says a father-daughter creation would not result in good gene pairing and a successful birth.

For unknown reasons, there is a 50 percent mortality rate for sloth bears, an endangered species.

"They'll be missed, but it's in the best interest of the species," said Marcure.

Heat, fuel fund program

AK JUNEAU — A new state loan program aims to help rural communities whose poor credit history has made them ineligible for state loans to buy winter heating oil and diesel fuel. The program pairs cash-strapped villages and regional partners, such as utilities, that will ensure the loans are repaid.

The partners will provide financial oversight and management training.

Activist loses lawsuit

NV RENO — Guy Felton, an activist accused of using foul language before being forcibly re-

moved from a 1999 council meeting, lost his federal lawsuit against former Mayor Jeff Griffin.

A judge ruled that Griffin was trying to curb Felton's disruptive behavior, not to limit his speech, when he threw him out of the council chambers.

Felton said he will appeal.

Collecting for orphans

IA GARRISON — An eastern Iowa woman is gathering shoes, socks and clothing to send to orphans in Afghanistan who will soon face the country's harsh winter. Jenni Birker's father, who's stationed with the Iowa National Guard near an orphanage, recently sent an e-mail pleading for more than 300 pairs of shoes.

Birker has put collection boxes in local businesses.

Parking revenue down

CO DENVER — Mayor John Hickenlooper's campaign pledge to lower parking meter rates downtown paid off politically but isn't paying off fiscally.

The city has collected about \$500,000 less in parking revenue during Hickenlooper's first year in office. His administration reduced the hourly parking rate to \$1 from \$1.50 and made parking free on Sunday.

Lake protection planning

NV LAS VEGAS — The seven states sharing the Colorado River are considering a plan to protect Lake Powell by cutting the amount of water released downstream to Lake Mead, a Nevada water official said.

Under the plan, which could be implemented if drought persists through the winter, the amount of water released from Lake Powell, on the Utah-Arizona border, would be reduced from 8.23 million acre-feet to 7.8 million acre-feet, Southern Nevada Water Authority General Manager Pat Mulroy said. The nearly 9.5-percent reduction could help keep Lake Powell from shrinking further, jeopardizing power generation at Glen Canyon Dam. But it could also accelerate a drop in the water level downstream at Lake Mead, the primary water supply for Las Vegas, Mulroy said.

Town honors Disney

MO MARCELINE, — The town of Marceline dedicated its post office to Walt Disney, a hometown boy who made good.

Disney was born in Marceline on Dec. 5, 1901. The post office was renamed in his honor after Rep. Sam Graves and Sen. Jim Talent sponsored a bill authorizing the change.

A souvenir "Walt Disney Post Office" postmark will soon be offered at the Marceline facility.

City to fly 1814 flag

MD BALTIMORE — Mayor Martin O'Malley ordered all city buildings to replace their modern American flags with the flag that inspired the national anthem.

The 15-star, 15-stripe design flew over Fort McHenry in 1814, when it survived a fierce bombardment from British ships. A replica is already flying at City Hall.

Stories and photos from wire services

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Prepared for battle

I joined the National Guard when I was 23 years old, with a 3-year-old daughter at home, and a college degree. For the writer of "Sending women to war wrong" (Aug. 15) to say that I "didn't know what I was getting myself into" is infuriating. I did not join the Army to sit behind a desk somewhere and read about "real soldiers" getting killed, while I'm safe and sound. I did not join for college money. I already had my degree. I did not join for an extra paycheck, because, quite honestly, when I enlisted I didn't realize we get paid for drill weekends in the National Guard. I joined to be a soldier, to defend my country and our kill bad guys, just like the men.

I am currently serving in Iraq, where the battlefield is all around us. Wherever we are, we are in harm's way. I am prepared to fight. Sure, the dangers in Iraq can be scary, and I don't intend to come across as a hard-core 11B wannabe; I'm just a communications troop in a combat unit. But I would not turn tail and run when faced with danger, because I'm not made like that.

The American government has not forced me into harm's way. I eagerly sought it out. I won't even change the fact that I joined, I would not change being in Iraq, and I would support any draft that included females, as we are capable of sharing the load and should do our part to defend freedom just as males have all these years.

With all the stories of soldiers getting killed over here, I would not be able to look at myself in the mirror if I was not able to have done, doing "my fair share to keep alive the principles of freedom for which this country stands." It's only fair.

Spec. Donna J. Smith
 Camp Cooke, Iraq

Woman's place in Army

In response to "Sending women to war wrong," the writer should fast forward to 2004. Women are capable of much more than cooking, cleaning and looking good. I am an anti-feminist with the firm belief that women do have their place, but men have their place, too. I love to clean, shop and play with children, but there is much more to me than that. I am also capable of shooting just as well as a man, running just as fast, and fighting just as hard. But is this really about that? I am not a female in the Army, I am a U.S. soldier.

When I got deployed to Iraq, I came when I could have gotten out of it — and I know countless males who found ways to go home. I knew what I was getting into when I joined the military. My first reason to join had nothing to do with the educational benefits. It had everything to do with me being a fighter, loving the thrill of a challenge, and wanting to serve my country. Women are not as naive as the writer makes them out to be. College money was just a great added bonus. I, along with countless other women, would give my life freely to protect my country, or to protect the soldier next to me.

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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We are in 2004, where terrorists attack people based on their origin, not sex. But we know no gender. Let women defend themselves as men do, let us fight for our country. If you don't like it, leave the United States.

And the record, women were not sent here because of a severe manpower shortage. We were sent here because our nation is at war and we answered the call.

Laura Johnston
 Al Taqadim, Iraq

America's finest

After reading "Sending women to war wrong," I was left speechless by the author's comments. I am a five-year veteran of the U.S. Army, currently serving in Iraq. During my time in the Army, I have had the distinct honor and privilege of serving with some of this nation's finest females.

Females have served and died for their country during times of conflict in every war we have fought. From being nurses during the Civil War to fighter pilots in today's battles, women have bravely put their country above themselves. They serve a vital part in our nation's armed forces and have done so long before this "severe manpower shortage."

The author says that we have a national policy that purposely places women in combat. While the vast majority of jobs in today's military are open to women, they are still restricted from combat arms units. I have served with women who, if given the chance, would jump at being in combat units. In an age when women have made great advances to be considered equals with men, we should allow a woman to serve her country in any way she sees fit.

Before the letter writer says women have no business being placed in harm's way, I suggest he first face harm himself. Then I would suggest that he stop and ask these women who willingly volunteer to face danger.

Don't trash the dedication these fine Americans show when they serve, and certainly don't diminish the sacrifices they

make when they give their life in combat. Having served with one, Pfc. Karina Lau, who gave her life in Iraq in November 2003, I can tell you firsthand that these women know the risks that they take, and are very willing and proud to face them.

Sgt. Troy Ward
 Camp Cooke, Iraq

Sisters in arms

To the writer of "Sending women to war wrong" I ask: Is it wrong for a woman to want to defend her own freedom, or that of her family and friends?

I am not only a proud military spouse, but also the mother of a young female soldier and a female JROTC cadet who plans to join her sister in the military.

The women of the U.S. armed forces are proud to serve their country, and I should think that anyone living in the United States would be just as proud to have them serve, whether it be on the battlefield or the parade field. I know I am.

And while it is a great loss to our country to lose any of our servicemembers, the fact that we live wasn't given to us. It has been paid for, and will continue to be paid for, with the sweat and tears, the blood, and the lives of those who answer the call of freedom — male and female alike.

What bothers me most is that it took the loss of a female soldier from the writer's home state to bring this war "closer to home" for him, while there are so many Americans who live and breathe the war every day.

Those of us living in and around the armed forces don't see male and female, but simply the camouflaged uniforms of the soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guard members who wear them. We stand behind each other 100 percent, and we mourn when the ultimate price is paid by one of them, regardless of their sex.

Cindy Bell
 Heidelberg, Germany

The right to fight

The writer of "Sending women to war wrong" said America's women are intelligent, yet also stated that when they are encouraged to enlist in the active-duty military, National Guard or Reserve forces, they have no idea what they are getting into. He said women are brave, loyal, hard-working and patriotic, yet it seems that he would like them at home taking care of women's work, not fighting for their personal beliefs and their country.

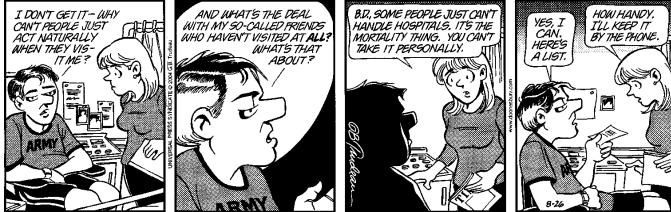
The writer has things wrong. It is other countries that have a bias against gender and the belief of what a woman can or cannot do.

And he talks of "historic norms and standards of decency." Historic norms called for slavery. That changed. Historic norms call for women to stay home and not work. That, too, has changed. So has women's right to choose to fight for their country.

Soldier on.

Jason Logan
 Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



OPINION

Swift boat dispute is a case study in bias

BY BEN WASSERSTEIN

Last Thursday, The Washington Post reported that the military records of Larry Thurlow, one of John Kerry's major accusers among Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, contradicted Thurlow's version of events and confirmed Kerry's. At the very least, this cast severe doubt on the charge that Kerry fabricated the events that earned him one of his Vietnam War medals.

The conservative media had been pushing the fabrication story energetically. How did it deal with new evidence undermining it? As it turns out, at almost every turn it soft-pedaled the new evidence or outright ignored it, showing its bias throughout.

On March 13, 1969, Kerry commanded one of five Navy Swift boats in a raid up the Bay Rap River and won a Bronze Star for actions under enemy fire. Thurlow commanded one of the other boats, and he has claimed in constant media rounds that there was no enemy fire. But, as The Post reported, Thurlow also won a Bronze Star that day, and the citation that accompanied it referred to "enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire" directed at "all units."

Thurlow's current story casts doubt on his own Bronze Star as well as Kerry's. Thurlow's explanation is that his citation's record of the events must have been based on Kerry's and that the information must have been provided by Kerry himself. But, as is so often the case, the "after-action report" that Thurlow and John E. O'Neill, coauthor of the anti-Kerry book "Unfit for

Command," refer to as "Kerry's report" despite the fact that it bears the initials KJW. (Later news stories have pointed out that Thurlow's Bronze Star citation refers to a witness to the enemy fire (Thurlow crewmate Robert Lambert) and that the KJW initials are also on reports about events Kerry was not involved in.)

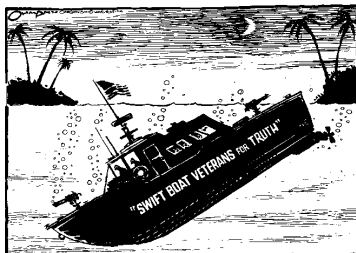
No one has so far challenged The Washington Post's facts. Not that you'd know that if you were watching or listening to or reading conservative media outlets. Rupert Murdoch's New York Post ran Thurlow's charge that Kerry lied to get his medal. On Friday, the day after The Washington Post poked a hole in that contention, the New York Post ran a teeny story focusing only on Kerry's decision to counterattack against "tough anti-Kerry TV ad." The Wall Street Journal editorial page and its Web site, OpinionJournal, also said nothing about the new evidence.

The conservative Washington Times did report The Washington Post's Thurlow scoop in a news article. It also ran Part 3 of its series excerpting "Unfit for Command," and the excerpt on Friday included Thurlow's contention that there was no hostile fire on March 13, 1969. In his column on Kerry, Washington Times Editor in Chief Wesley Pruden wrote, "The newspaper's friends at The Washington Post attempted to muddy the waters for him yesterday," and then Pruden approvingly restated Thurlow's assertions and his explanation for the discrepancy. An unsigned editorial called on the media to investigate the after-action report.

The leading serious conservative journal, the Weekly Standard, posted a new issue online Friday with a cover story titled "The Kerry Wars." The story cited The Washington Post article and admitted that "the documentary evidence available so far backs Kerry's story," but its paragraph dealing with the accusations that Kerry lied to get his medals concludes that "such claims boil down to Kerry's word versus his opponents'."

On TV and radio, all the action came Thursday.... John Kasich was guest host of [Fox News Channel's] "The O'Reilly Factor" on Thursday, and Thurlow himself phoned in to address The Washington Post's story. To his credit, Kasich hammered Thurlow with questions, making the common-sense point, "You know, I got a citation that said I saved somebody ... and it wasn't that way, I don't know, maybe I would attempt to correct the record." Thurlow just repeated that there had been no enemy fire and that Kerry had written the report on which the citation was based. He wasn't asked for evidence....

Following "O'Reilly," "Hannity & Colmes" tackled the Thurlow story with their guest (they said the Kerry campaign declined to send a representative). O'Neill said he knew Kerry had presented the report by which the citations were based on "because anyone reading it with practical knowledge would know that" and because other officers such as Thurlow said that Kerry often wrote after-action reports. "There's not a bullet hole in any of those three boats, not one," he



said, offering no documentation.

The Los Angeles Times reported Friday that a report on "battle damage" to Thurlow's boat made reference to "three 30 cal bullet holes about super structure." Meanwhile, on the radio, Rush Limbaugh offered a master class in turning The Washington Post's story into an indictment of Kerry. In his opening monologue, Limbaugh said that to vote for Kerry, one would "have to accept only what he tells us about his service record." That left out the small matter of the accounts from his crewmates, and Thurlow's war record....

Ignoring all the evidence in Kerry's favor, Limbaugh later said: "We haven't got any evidence because the Kerry campaign won't come forth and defend any of this." In a speech that day, Kerry directly addressed the charges against him by asking people to look at his record. But

Limbaugh repeatedly asserted: "He won't face this. He won't face it" and "he won't answer the charges."

By the end of the program, it seemed as though the revelations about Thurlow gave Limbaugh more confidence in the Swift Boat's account.

"How come it's causing so much angst? ... It's because it's true, probably," Limbaugh said. "We're supposed to believe what [the Kerry] campaign says). Because their attitude is, 'If we say it's true, if the other guys say it, it's a lie, believe us. That attitude, with its blithe dismissal of opposing evidence, perfectly describes the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth and its enablers in the media. What more there is supports Kerry, and due to the right-wing media the burden of proof falls on him."

Ben Wasserstein is a writer in New York. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Kerry's never been to Cambodia, yet he won't leave

BY JOSHUA MURAVCHIK

Most of the debate between the former shipmates who swear by John Kerry and the group of others, Swift Boat Veterans, who are attacking his military record focuses on matters that few of us have the experience or the moral standing to judge. But one issue, having nothing to do with medals or bravery or military fire, goes to the heart of Kerry's qualifications for the presidency and is therefore something that each of us must consider. That is Kerry's apparently fabricated claim that he fought in Cambodia.

It is an assertion he made first, insofar as the written record reveals, in 1979 in a letter to the Boston Herald. Since then he has repeated it on at least eight occasions.... The most dramatic iteration came on the floor of the Senate in 1986, when he gave the centerpiece of a 20-minute oration against aid to the Nicaraguan contras.

Kerry argued that contra aid could put the United States on the path to deeper involvement despite denials by the Reagan administration of such intent. Kerry began by reading out similar denials regarding Vietnam from presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon. Then he offered this devastating riposte: "I remember Christmas of 1968 when a gunboat in Cambodia. I remember what it was like to be shot at by Vietnamese and Khmer Rouge and Cambodians, and have the presi-

dent of the United States telling the American people that I was not there, the troops were not in Cambodia. I have that memory which is seared — seared — in me."

However seared he was, Kerry's spokesmen now say his memory was faulty. When the Swift Boat veterans who oppose Kerry presented statements from his commanders and members of his unit denying his boat entered Cambodia, none of Kerry's shipmates came forward... to corroborate his account.... [T]he point of Kerry's 1986 speech was that he had taken part in a secret and illegal war in a neutral country.

That was only true if he was "in Cambodia," as he had often said he was. If he was merely "near," then his deliberate misstatement falsified the entire speech....

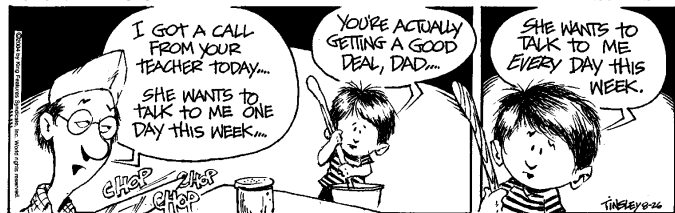
After his discharge, Kerry became the leader of Vietnam Veterans Against the War. Once, he presented to Congress the accounts by his VVAW comrades of having "personally raped, cut off ears, cut off heads, taped wires... to human genitals... razed villages in a fashion reminiscent of Genghis Khan... poisoned foodstocks." Later it was shown that many of the stories on which Kerry based this testimony were

false, some told by impostors who had stolen the identities of real GIs, but Kerry himself was not implicated in the fraud....

Kerry... has claimed that the epiphany he had that Christmas was about truthfulness.... If — as seems almost surely the case — Kerry himself has lied about what he did in Vietnam, and has done so not merely to spice his biography but to influence national policy, then he is surely not the kind of man we want as our president.

Joshua Muravchik is a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

Mallard Fillmore



BY BRUCE TINSLEY

FACES 'N' PLACES

Stepping out of the shadows



AP photos
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MORGAN LOOSLI
Stars and Stripes

With album debuting at No. 1, Ashlee Simpson shows she's not mini-Jessica

BY ISAAC GUZMAN
New York Daily News

Ashlee Simpson grew up in her sister Jessica's shadow, but today, the younger sibling is a star in her own right. Ashlee's debut album, "Autobiography," debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard charts, occupying a lofty slot that none of Jessica's three albums have managed to reach.

"It's insane," Ashlee said of the record's opening week sales. "It's been a long, fun process. But it's not a comparison to Jessica or anything like that."

The comparison, however, is something that Ashlee won't be able to avoid. After all, it was Jessica's fame that helped Ashlee snag both her Geffen Records deal and the self-titled MTV show (which aired in the time slot following big sister's "Newlyweds") that propelled the sales of "Autobiography."

In the same way that Aaron Carter (brother of Backstreet Boy Nick) and Slick the Shocker (brother of rap impresario Master P) practically inherited successful pop careers, Ashlee simply has taken advantage of a new form of celebrity nepotism.

It used to be that stars helped their children hit the big time. Now, well-organized stage parents prompt other talented members of their brood to enter the fray. Soon, we're also likely to hear about big projects from Haylie Duff (Hilary's older sister) and Jamie Lynn Spears (kin to Britney).

"You have young girls like Jessica Simpson and Britney Spears and Hilary Duff making such a great living," said Atossa Rubenstein, editor of Seventeen magazine. "If you have another daughter or son who is equally talented, why wouldn't you want them in the family business?" These people have all developed very strong brands, and the sibling is just an extension of that brand," Rubenstein added.

At first, however, the spotlight illuminating her sister was something that Ashlee — now 20, four years younger than Jessica — could barely endure. When Jessica hit it big, Ashlee had to be content as a dancer in her sister's pop show.

In the song "Shadow," Ashlee recounts the experience. "She was beautiful, she had everything and more," she sings. "It used to be so hard being me, living in the shadow of someone else's dream."

"That song is about such an emotional feeling inside," Ashlee said. "It's about dealing with the inner demons and the voices in your head. Around 7 is when I first felt that emotional detachment about everything, and I had to overcome that."

In part, Ashlee rebelled against her sister's success by trying to be different. If Jessica was going to be the good girl who sang R&B songs, she'd be the rebel who tore up her clothes and immersed herself in the ways of rock's toughest women, such as Janis Joplin, The Pretenders' Chrissie Hynde and Blondie's Deborah Harry.

Not every sibling gets an automatic pass to the big time. Both Beyonce Knowles' younger sister Solange and Brandy's brother Ray J failed to create identities apart from their family.

MTV's "The Ashlee Simpson Show" gave her a chance to show potential fans that she wasn't simply a Jessica clone. Viewers got to see her as she occasionally struggled to hit the right notes or grew frustrated with the choice to find songs and a rock sound to fit her quirky, aggressive personality.

"If you're a sibling of a star, you have to prove that your image is not the same as theirs," said Amy Doyle, vice president of music programming for MTV.

The show quickly became one of the top five cable shows with viewers from 12 to 34. When MTV offered a free, advance Internet stream of "Autobiography," nearly 2.5 million fans logged on, eclipsing a record set by Britney Spears.

Ashlee attributes her following to changing trends in teen taste. In the late '90s, boy bands and pop were the fad; now, young people are more interested in the punk rock-inflected sound of Avril Lavigne.

"Kids are a lot smarter than people sometimes think that they are," Ashlee said. "More teenagers get you if you're just being yourself and being real. I never worried about if it was going to look or sound good on camera."

Elvis announcer dies at 81

Al Dvorin, the concert announcer who made famous the phrase "Elvis has left the building," was killed in an auto accident in California. He was 81.

Dvorin was thrown from the car he was riding in Sunday after it swerved off a desert road near Ivanpah, the California Highway Patrol said.

The night before, Dvorin performed his signature closing line at an Elvis impersonator concert in California.

A former bandleader and talent agent in Chicago, Dvorin was with the King from his early days as a performer and was on his last tour in 1977, the year Presley died.

The phrase that Dvorin made his signature was first uttered by other announcers early in Presley's career. It was intended to disperse audiences who lingered in hopes of an Elvis encore.

Page reputation cemented

Jimmy Page hasn't yet made it up the stairway to heaven, but he's the first to reach the new British Walk of Fame.

The former Led Zeppein guitarist cast his handprints in cement Monday as the first music legend to be featured on London's answer to the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

"It's a real privilege and a great honor to be the first. I'm really chuffed," said Page, 60. "A Walk of Fame is a fantastic idea, and it's high time we had one in London."

The site of the British version is taking shape outside the new Virgin Music super-

store on Piccadilly Circus, London's landmark crossroads.

Page predicted it would soon become crowded with hand prints.

"If you started putting in all the people I think are deserving, you could cover the whole of London," he said.

Climbing back in the race

Just over a year after cutting off his right arm to save his life during a solo hike in Utah, Aspen adventurer Aron Ralston has completed a grueling 100-mile race at an elevation of over 10,000 feet.

More than 400 runners began the Leadville Trail race dawn Saturday in Colorado, racing through hail and lightning at times, but fewer than half officially completed the race. Some dropped out because of nausea and cramps and others weren't able to cross the finish line within the 30-hour time limit.

Ralston, an official finisher with a time of 29:43, said he got sick after eating a sandwich but continued despite feeling nauseated.

Last April, Ralston was hiking alone, negotiating a canyon in southeastern Utah, when his right arm became pinned beneath an 800-pound boulder. After other failed attempts, he freed himself on the fifth day by snapping his bones and using a knife to cut through his arm.

Since then, he has learned to play the piano one-handed, climbed 14,000-foot-tall Colorado mountains alone and returned to skiing and mountain biking.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Page



Ralston

Horoscope

With Mercury still retrograde, and both the sun and moon in signs that are to be super subtle with emotional sharing, some actions taken will be misconstrued. The lunar influence is Capricorn, so the confusion could center around who's being shown respect, how and why. To avoid trouble, pay attention to protocol, and be as clear as possible.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (August 26)

You count your wealth in many currencies this year — love is at the top of that list. Relationships get tighter as your commitment becomes more definite. New income sources are featured in the next six weeks. Getting the proper skills will ensure that you get a position you're aiming for this fall. Love signs are Cancer or Leo.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

The theme is connection. You unconsciously seek to better understand the nature of friendship, to reconnect with a forgotten friendship or to learn the true meaning of friendship. Tonight, the cat is out of the bag.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Your imagination needs to be nourished, and this happens best when you get out of your normal environment and experience something new. It won't happen naturally. Some planning and effort must take place.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Errands and appointments rule your schedule, but what happens during the pit stops in between will be the most fascinating. There's much to envy about a fabulous friend, and these feelings are best kept private.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Practical matters need speedy resolution. Your relationships (especially the romantic ones) run much more smoothly when the bills are paid. At work, you'll be required to do a lot in a small stretch of time.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Your rare qualities are heightened. Your relationship with a certain person is different from any other relationship either you or this person has. Recognize

its uniqueness, and appreciate what this tie brings to your life.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Your own achievement has surpassed your expectation, and that's a remarkable feeling — for about an hour. Then, true to form, you're

trying to improve again. If you're not communicating with family, break the pattern.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Everyone has an opinion, but that doesn't obligate you to follow the advice. Feel free to live your way. The old success wheel will start rolling when you develop your individuality to an even higher level. Romance is in the air tonight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

Family members show love and support in their own funny way. Special relationships help you with job advancement. You needn't feel guilty, as the benefits will be mutual. Your contribution at work is greatly enriching.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

1. Pace yourself, and don't let demands run you ragged. You can only do so much on your own and may find it necessary to delegate more of your load. Start by getting the help of your nearest and dearest.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You have superhuman energy! You may use it to further everyone else's agenda, but don't forget about your own projects. A friend's self-confidence is directly affected by your opinion. Be compassionate, but don't be neutral.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Your normally easygoing attitude is overthrown by a consuming feeling of exhilaration. A creative life force is surging through you now, and it touches all you do with a passionate fire. Appreciation for your work is coming.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

You'll be exploring your ideals and maybe changing them, too. You're a complex being with needs that can only be met in your own quiet time. Adventure and spontaneity are the remedy for your restless spirit.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jillson



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



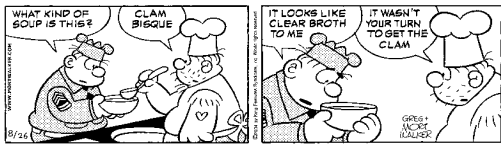
Cathy



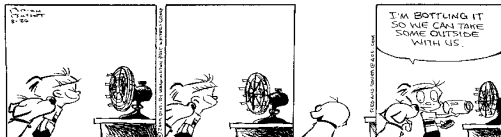
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



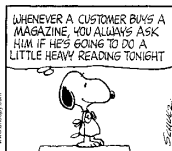
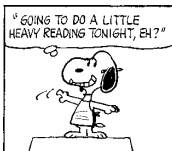
Red Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



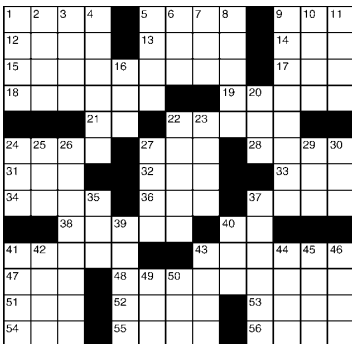
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Data storage unit
- 5 Catch red-handed
- 9 Cong. member
- 12 Burden
- 13 Lotion additive
- 14 Swelled head
- 15 Mother of Caligula
- 17 Author Fleming
- 18 Sew's loosely
- 19 Annie's dog
- 21 "That hurts!"
- 22 Dr. Hunter Adams
- 24 Dread
- 27 Aviv lead-in
- 28 Spilled the beans
- 31 Ancient
- 32 "Monty Python" opener
- 33 Floral garland
- 34 Be philanthropic
- 36 Guitarist Kotkic
- 37 City of Yemen
- 38 Not so healthy
- 40 Early hrs.
- 41 Women's mag
- 43 His work was done by Friday
- 47 Thoroughfare (Abb.)
- 48 Aladdin's find
- 51 Apiece
- 52 Border on
- 53 Ontario neighbor
- 54 USNA grad
- 55 Driver's license datum
- 56 "Little Man —"

Down

- 1 De-bag the cat?
- 2 Calming practice
- 3 Sailors
- 4 Newsweek employee
- 5 Siestas
- 6 Will Smith biopic
- 7 Charged bit
- 8 Minimum
- 9 "Beverly Hills Cop" actor
- 10 "Zounds!"
- 11 Express transportation?
- 16 Church perch
- 20 Legislation
- 22 An Apostle
- 23 As well
- 24 Navigation hindrance
- 25 Mr. Wallace
- 26 Consultants
- 27 Mah-jongg piece
- 29 Shelter
- 30 Cacophony
- 35 Kruger's street
- 37 Charm
- 39 "Death of a Salesman"
- 40 Circle segment
- 41 Part of a Batman costume
- 42 It takes the cake
- 43 Give as an example
- 44 Rue of "Less Than Perfect"
- 45 Skip over
- 46 Saber alternative
- 49 Lawyers' org.
- 50 Clog (up)

Answer to Previous Puzzle



8-26

CRYPTOQUIP

J X M P D A Q W V Z S J A W V Y R Y Q B
 S A H W A Z J V S ' H A C M Y W Y Q B
 U X C Y Q B D V W M F : " V U X P W

R V H W Q Y B F W ."
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU OFTEN
 MISPLACE YOUR PUNCTUATION MARKS, I
 THINK THAT COULD BE BAD COMMA.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals X

Collections could be sign of OCD

Dear Abby: "Living Like a Hermit in California" complained about her husband's unusual collecting behavior.

"He owns 24 cars," she wrote. "None of them run; they just sit around. He buys old airplanes although he doesn't know how to fly and they, too, sit rusting away. He also collects cardboard boxes and anything in bulk." You suggested she contact a lawyer and get her husband a psychiatric evaluation.

His hoarding sounds like obsessive-compulsive disorder to me. I have depression and during my worst times, I have voraciously collected metal washers. I found it so soothing to have something to concentrate on besides my problems. The quality of my collection was a substitute for real accomplishment.

The fact that "Living's" husband is also withdrawn leads me to suspect that he has depression, OCD or a similar psychiatric

problem. I got help for mine, and I feel much better. Her husband might never be normal, but a good place to start would be sympathy, patience and a caring doctor.

— **Ohio Hoarder**

Dear Ohio: I advised "Living Like a Hermit in California" to consult a lawyer because she said her husband had moved them out of a house into a trailer and had spent all their assets on his "hobby." I agree that he may be mentally ill. Read on:

Dear Abby: The letter from "Living Like a Hermit" had a familiar ring. My neighbor exhibited similar behavior and was diagnosed with manic depression. When she was up, she collected; when she was down she withdrew from the world.

Roger may be more than "eccentric"; he may suffer from a mental illness.

— **Been There in Tampa, Fla.**

Dear Abby



Annie's Mailbox



Dear Annie: I am at my computer giving some advice to "New Jersey," whose husband's family history puts him at high risk for prostate cancer, but he refuses to see a doctor because he is too embarrassed and doesn't want anyone touching him. That's too bad, because he can be sure the mortician is going to touch him — and sooner than he thinks.

This man knows he is showing symptoms, yet he does nothing. Thank you for telling him to look into information available through the American Cancer Society. Years ago, my husband was diagnosed with testicular cancer. Very little information was available to the public at the time. He had surgery, follow-ups and 12 years of office visits in order for this information to be compiled.

of his health and hoped he would change his mind soon. Here's one more:

Dear Annie: I would like to say something to "New Jersey's" husband: The only embarrassment you will suffer is when others find out you did nothing to protect your health. Your doctor visits are private, and members of your immediate family will know only that you are going in for a checkup.

I also am at high risk of devel-

Dear Ben: There: That may be true, but I am not qualified to diagnose him.

Dear Abby: Tell that woman to get off her duff, learn more about her husband's collection and then get on eBay! There are people rebuilding old cars who have to order custom parts when none are available. And in California, the movie business is always looking for props.

One studio rented my former father-in-law's car while shooting a movie about the Kennedy assassination in Dallas.

They asked for permission to paint the car black. He said, "Sure, as long as you paint it white again before you return it." And they did!

— **Nancy in Houston**
Dear Nancy: I love your idea about turning her husband's "compulsion" into an income stream. They could use the money.

Letters for this column — with your name and number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at: <http://www.upspress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BYMUP

LEREC

SEJERY

GOURAC

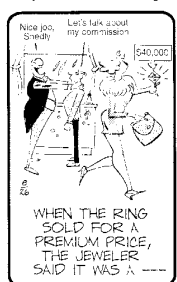
Answer here: " " OF A " "

MAIZE BAKED FORGOT CIPHER

What the shady salesman did to the unsuspecting buyer — TOOK HIM FOR A RIDE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argrison



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Counter cancer before it strikes

Dear Annie: I am at my computer giving some advice to "New Jersey," whose husband's family history puts him at high risk for prostate cancer, but he refuses to see a doctor because he is too embarrassed and doesn't want anyone touching him. That's too bad, because he can be sure the mortician is going to touch him — and sooner than he thinks.

This man knows he is showing symptoms, yet he does nothing. Thank you for telling him to look into information available through the American Cancer Society. Years ago, my husband was diagnosed with testicular cancer. Very little information was available to the public at the time. He had surgery, follow-ups and 12 years of office visits in order for this information to be compiled.

Please tell "New Jersey" to have her husband read this and think about his wife and family. If he cares about them, he will do whatever is necessary to stick around.

— **Lived Through It in Michigan**

Dear Michigan: Our readers were quite concerned about this man's willful disregard of his health and hoped he would change his mind soon. Here's one more:

Dear Annie: I would like to say something to "New Jersey's" husband: The only embarrassment you will suffer is when others find out you did nothing to protect your health. Your doctor visits are private, and members of your immediate family will know only that you are going in for a checkup.

I also am at high risk of devel-

oping prostate cancer because both my grandfather and father died of it. My father fought the cancer for over seven years. During that time, I had many opportunities to tell him I loved him. He showed me many strengths by not quitting, denying or looking for false hope. I miss my father greatly, but his lessons are ingrained in me.

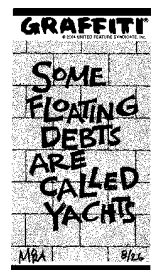
At the age of 37, I began regular prostate checks. I am now 45. A digital exam may be uncomfortable, but it is not painful. A PSA blood test is done along with all my other blood work. I am on the right track to discover prostate cancer early enough to beat it if it comes knocking on my door. I want to tell him: Be strong, get yourself checked, and live life to the fullest.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniemail@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



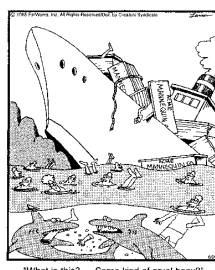
"PJ shouldn't complain about taking a short nap. Cicada moths sleep for 17 years."



Dennis the Menace



The Far Side



Non Sequitur



0 0 1
1 4 4
0 1 2
0 0 2
W Frank-
A-23,143

Beltre's MLB-leading 40th homer powers Dodgers

L.A. opens five-game lead in West

The Associated Press

ML Roundup
MONTREAL — Adrian Beltré's first five full seasons in the majors were marked by stretches of inconsistency and only flashes of power hitting.

This year, the Los Angeles Dodgers' third baseman has become one of baseball's most prolific sluggers.

Beltre hit a grand slam to become the first player to reach 40 home runs this season, leading the Dodgers to a 10-2 victory over the Montreal Expos on Tuesday.

His previous career high for homers was 23, last season.

"Now I believe I can hit 40," said Beltre, who's hitting .334 with 9 RBIs. "I don't know if I can hit 45 yet. When I get to 44, then I know I can hit 45. I just do my best. I'm enjoying it."

Beltre has homered 10 times in his last 15 games, not bad for someone who came into the season hoping to hit just 30 homers.

"It's a number that I didn't think about the last few years," he said. "To get to 30, and to hit 40 already is a big accomplishment."

Los Angeles, which increased its NL West lead to five games over second-place San Francisco, has won six of its past nine road games and 17 of 25.

Alex Cora homered and had five RBIs, and Kazuhisa Ishii (12-6) allowed two runs in 7 1/3 innings for Los Angeles.

"Offensively, obviously we're going to have to talk about Adrian Beltre — we have to again tonight — and Alex Cora, with a career high with RBIs," Dodgers manager Jim Tracy said.

Los Angeles scored eight runs in the fifth, its biggest inning this season. Beltre connected off Rocky Biddle (4-7) for his fourth career slam, his second this year.

Cora also hit a three-run drive against Francis Beltran in the inning. The second baseman had an RBI single in the second and a run-scoring grounder in the ninth, tying his career high for RBIs.



Montreal catcher Enar Diaz makes a vain attempt to tag Los Angeles' David Ross at the plate during the Dodgers' 10-2 victory on Tuesday.

Biddle threw 104 pitches in 4 1/3 innings, allowing seven runs and six hits.

In other NL games Tuesday: **Cubs 13, Brewers 4:** Moises Alou homered twice and had a career-high six RBIs, and Derrek Lee hit a grand slam as Milwaukee lost its seventh straight.

The host Cubs won for the ninth time in seven games and opened a one-game lead in the wild-card race over San Francisco.

Marlins 9, Giants 1: At Miami, Alex Gonzalez hit a three-run homer to cap a seven-run first, and Mike Lowell drove in five runs for the Marlins.

The defending champs won for the eighth time in 11 games and remained five games behind the Cubs in the wild-card standings.

Brewers 6, Rockies 5: Rafael Furcal went 4-for-4, including a two-run triple in the Braves' four-run sixth, and Eli Marrero

drove in the go-ahead run with an RBI single in the seventh.

Marrero and Julio Franco each went 3-for-4 for the Braves, who used 14 hits to rally past the visiting Rockies after falling behind by four runs.

Padres 3, Mets 1: San Diego's David Wells (8-7) took a shutout into the ninth and won his fifth straight on the road. He allowed one run, four hits, struck out four and walked none in 8 1/3 innings.

Astros 4, Phillies 2: Lance Berkman and Mike Lamb hit RBI singles in the bottom of the eighth inning and the Astros used a rare relief appearance by Roy Oswalt (14-9) to defeat Philadelphia.

Reds 4, Cardinals 3: (10): At Cincinnati, Juan Tavaréz (5-4) pitched while appealing a 10-day suspension and allowed the game-winning run on Darren Bragg's single.

Tavaréz was penalized for applying foreign substances to balls in a game he pitched last week.

Pirates 3, Diamondbacks 1: Oliver Perez (9-6) pitched eight innings. Daryle Ward homered and the host Pirates snapped a five-game losing streak.

Jeter's ,000th run, two steals lift Yankees over reeling Indians

The Associated Press

AL Roundup
CLEVELAND — Derek Jeter not only stayed in the lineup, he reached a milestone and helped steal a victory.

A night after he was hit on the left elbow by a pitch, Jeter homered in the first inning for his 1,000th career run. He stole two bases in the ninth inning and scored on Hideki Matsui's two-out single to lead the New York Yankees over Cleveland 5-4 on Tuesday night, the Yankees' ninth straight loss.

"He took us on his shoulders and got us in position to win the ballgame," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "He set the tone for the night — not knowing if he was going to play, then he hits the ball over the center-field fence."

With the score 4-1 in the ninth, Jeter walked against Bob Wickman (0-2), the pitcher who hit him Monday night. Jeter stole his 19th and 20th bases.

"You're not always going to hit home runs. You have to score runs other ways," Jeter said. "I just thought I could make it. I saw some opportunities and took off."

Tom Gordon (6-3) pitched a career eighth, and Mariano Rivera got three outs for his 43rd save.

New York, which rallied from a 4-1 deficit, has won two straight after losing six of seven. The Yankees' slumped 6 1/2 games ahead of Boston in the AL East.

Cleveland is on its longest skid since losing 10 straight in 1979. The Indians, who trailed the Yankees by one game on Aug. 15, remained eight games behind the AL Central leader.

In other AL games Tuesday:

Red Sox 5, Blue Jays 4: Bos-

ton's Doug Mirabeli hit a go-ahead three-run homer in the sixth off Miguel Batista (9-10), and Mike Timlin pitched out of a hole-loaded game in the bottom of the inning to help the Red Sox win for the seventh time in eight games.

Manly Ramirez drove in two runs for the Red Sox, who have won seven of eight and remained one game ahead of Texas in the wild-card race.

Tim Wakefield (10-7) allowed three runs and 10 hits in five-plus innings for his fifth win in six starts, and Keith Foulke got four outs for his 23rd save.

Rangers 5, Twins 4: Texas' Michael Young hit a tying double in the bottom of the ninth off Joe Nathan (1-2) and Mark Teixeira singled home the winning run with two outs, stopping Minnesota's four-game winning streak.

Punch-hitter Justin Morneau had put Minnesota ahead in the top half with an RBI double off Francisco Cordero (3-0).

Athletics 6, Orioles 2: Mark Mulder (17-4) became the first game winner in the major leagues this season, allowing two runs and four hits in six innings at Oakland, Calif.

Baltimore lost its eighth straight. Sidney Ponson (8-13) gave up six runs and nine hits in six innings.

Angels 7, Royals 5: Jose

Guillen hit a two-run homer as the host Angels won their seventh straight, converting a throwing error by second baseman Dierke Relaford into the tying and go-ahead runs.

Adam Kennedy was 4-for-4, and John Lackey (11-10) allowed five runs and seven hits in five innings. Troy Percival became the only active major league pitcher with nine consecutive seasons of at least 25 saves.

White Sox 9, Tigers 5: Juan Uribe homered, scored the go-ahead run and drove in three runs, helping Chicago end a five-game losing streak.

Jon Garland (9-9) won for just the second time in nine starts since defeating Seattle on July 9, giving up four runs and eight hits in seven innings.

Carlos Peña hit a third-inning grand slam for host Detroit.

Devil Rays 6, Marlins 5: Tampa Bay's Tino Martinez hit a two-run homer in the top of the first to back Rob Bell (6-7), who allowed two runs — one earned — and three hits in seven innings.

Martinez, who reached 20 homers in the ninth time, tied Cecil Fielder for 87th on the career list with 319.

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Stars and Stripes Messages of Support

★ Hi Jimmy, Our thoughts and prayers are always with you and everyone!! Be Safe! Be Strong! Take care and God Bless you and Everyone. Love Mom, Rob, Kara, Scruffy & All!!!

★ Christopher and Robert S. (USMC), you both are missed very much! We are all waiting for your safe return. We're following your missions w/ the news, and are very proud of you! Can't wait to have u both home! We love you! -Mom, Brigitte, Kortney, the Soto's, & the James!

★ To B. Sykes and the men and women of V Corps, your country knows and appreciates your personal sacrifice as you go about your mission in Iraq. Every day, we keep you all in our hearts and prayers, and wish for a speedy mission success and your safe return. And please know that we will do all that we can to help your families get through these trying times. Love, Dad

★ Hi: I just would like you to know, I will be praying for you. Be encouraged! Donna

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2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Finally gold, 'tears of joy' for El Guerrouj

BY STEPHEN WILSON

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Hicham El Guerrouj is no longer the world's greatest middle-distance runner never to win an Olympic title. Now, he's simply the greatest.

In Atlanta in 1996, the Moroccan tripped on the final lap and finished last. Four years ago in Sydney, he was overtaken in the final meters by Noah Ngeny, then lay sobbing on the track in despair, convinced he'd let down his entire country.

All that heartbreak evaporated Tuesday night when El Guerrouj held off Kenya's Bernard Lagat in a thrilling shoulder-to-shoulder sprint in the final straight to win the only title to elude him — and the one he craved the most.

"Four years ago in Sydney I cried tears of sadness," he said. "Today I cry tears of glory. I'm living a moment of glory. I'm overjoyed for myself and for my country."

El Guerrouj threw his arms high in the air and looked up to the sky after crossing the finish



Morocco's Hicham El Guerrouj celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the men's 1500 meters ahead of Kenya's Bernard Lagat.

line in 3:34.18, just 12-hundredths of a second faster than Lagat. Portugal's Rui Silva took the bronze in 3:34.68.

In some of the most poignant scenes of the Athens Games, the 29-year-old El Guerrouj fell to his knees, buried his face in his hands and cried uncontrollably. Lagat was the first to congratulate him, kneeling down and holding him in a warm embrace.

"Hicham El Guerrouj is a classy athlete," Lagat said. "He was only missing one thing: Olympic gold. I knew he wanted this one so bad. I was really happy for him. It was quite emotional. You feel for him. You know he's deserving and he got it today."

El Guerrouj rolled over onto his back, his chest heaving with sobs. Then he set off on a victory lap, draped in the Moroccan flag.

He went over to his 19-year-old wife, Majava, in the stands and kissed their baby daughter, Hibba.

"Today I ran for her and for my family," he said. "(God willing), she will be happy for her papa."

El Guerrouj danced to the Greek music blaring from the loudspeakers, then took a cell phone call from the king of Morocco, Mohammed VI. After the devastating experiences of the last two Olympics, this was a moment to treasure.

"It had become a psychological complex," said his longtime coach, Abdelkader Kada. "The Olympic medal was all that was left. Now, for me, today he becomes the best miser in history."

El Guerrouj has been the undisputed middle-distance king for more than a decade, with four straight world championship titles, and world records in the 1,500 and mile.

But this year he looked vulnerable. His 29-race winning streak ended 72 when he finished a stunning eighth at a Rome meet. He complained of breathing problems. He finished second to Lagat

in a final Olympic tuneup in Zurich, with the Kenyan clocking a world-leading 3:27.40.

"It's been a very, very difficult year," he said. "I didn't even know if I would come to the Olympics. But I overcame the challenges. This shows Hicham is a great athlete."

The race lived up to expectations.

El Guerrouj went in front on the second lap and took control of the pace, with Lagat right behind him. On the final lap, El Guerrouj tried to break away, but Lagat stayed with him. Around the last bend, Lagat made his move on the outside, pulling alongside El Guerrouj. The two ran all-out, stride for stride, toward the line.

Lagat grimaced with exertion, but El Guerrouj remained smooth and controlled. In the last few meters, Lagat tightened up, and the Moroccan pulled half a stride ahead to finish first.

"In the last 100 meters I knew it was going to come down to the kick," Lagat said. "I was right behind him all the way. With 50 meters left, I thought this could be another Zurich, but he had the strongest kick today."

Messages of Support

★ C. Carlson, Congratulations on your achievement! Your church and Saint Edward, Nebraska community is keeping you in our hearts and prayers. We support our troops!
Rev. Henstock

Messages of Support

★ I wanted to take the opportunity to say thank you to all, for all of the strength and sacrifices that all of you are making for all of the people and families in our country. This Country would not be where it is today without the backbone of the military and people like yourselves. I believe in what you all are doing for this Country and the people that you are trying free. I only wish that I could cook everyone a nice meal as I am a chef. Nothing brings people together like food. I hope and pray for all of you, that you are safe and all come home. Much love to you all and kick some ass! Thanks, Pete Smith

★ Thank God for strong, supportive and fearless troops like myself. I am SO proud to be an American - I know my children are safe and will be living in a better place because of you! We really do support you 100%! My flag is waving and will remain up until you come home safe and sound! Kelly L. Wiley

★ From someone who lost a brother at the WTC on Sept. 11th, I just wanted to express my gratitude to all who are defending our United States. My brother and all those who perished with him did not have a chance to defend themselves, but now I feel that the U.S. servicemen and women are not only fighting to protect all of us but they are also honoring those like my brother by letting those who think they can terrorize the people of the United States that there will be a price to pay. And I thank you. We are proud of all of you.

★ hi honey hope you are well! we miss you and are praying for you daily and for all the soldiers! Hang in there guys! lots of love. Donna and the boys and bell, noel narm!!
xxxxxxx Let us know if we can do anything to help. Be safe!!

Jones qualifies in long jump

BY ROB GLOSTER

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Without any of the fanfare that accompanied his historic quest for five gold medals in all at the 2000 Games, Marion Jones quietly advanced to the final of the long jump in her first appearance of these Olympics.

But U.S. teammate Allen Johnson, a four-time world champion and a former Olympic gold medalist, made a shocking exit from the second round of the 110-meter hurdles. He tripped over the ninth hurdle and fell under the last one — ending up face down on the track, glasses flying off his face, as competitors crossed the finish line.

Four years ago, Jones' quest for five golds ended in the long jump. This time, she made her Athens debut in the event. She competed in virtual anonymity, drawing only a smattering of applause with little of the celebrity worship that engulfed her in Sydney.

On her first attempt, Jones licked her lips, then paused for the start of a men's race. She took two quick deep breaths, sped down the runway — and fouled by several inches. She immediately went over to the stands to talk with coach Dan Pfaff.

Jones opened her mouth wide and rolled her tongue around her mouth before her second jump, then took four quick breaths. She propelled herself down the runway and leaped 21 feet, 11 1/2 inches to surpass the automatic qualifying distance of 21-10 and advance to Friday's final.

After qualifying, she quickly dressed and prepared to call it a night.

Track and field

The biggest thrill of the night for Greek fans came when countrywoman Fani Halkia won the 400-meter hurdles in 52.82 seconds, sending the sold-out Olympic Stadium into spasms of joy and flag waving. Romania's Ionea Tirlea-Manolache won silver and Tetiana Terechuk-Antipova of Ukraine took bronze. Australian Jana Pittman, the world champion, finished fifth two weeks after undergoing knee surgery.

Near the start of the long jump runway, awaiting her second attempt, Jones sat impassively as Halkia pranced by on her victory lap.

At the 2000 Sydney Games, Jones already had won gold medals in the 100 and 200 meters when she got a bronze in the long jump. She went on to win two more medals in this summer — one gold, one bronze.

At the U.S. trials this summer, she failed to qualify in the 100 and dropped out of the 200, citing fatigue. She hopes to run in the 400-meter relay squad, beginning Thursday.

Those are not the only deficiencies from the last Olympics.

Jones was the darling of Sydney, her every move chronicled as she aimed for five golds. Even her defense of husband C.J. Hunter on drug charges has her praise as a supportive spouse.

Now she's under investigation by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, and has been accused by ex-husband Hunter of using banned drugs before, during and after the

Sydney Games. And she is returning to Olympic competition just 14 months after giving birth to a son.

In other events Wednesday, Hicham El Guerrouj qualified easily for the final of the 5,000 one night after his dramatic and emotional victory in the 1,500. Winning that preliminary heat was 10,000 champion Kenenisa Bekele, setting up a Saturday night duel in the final between two men trying to complete a rare Olympic distance double.

Only four men have won the 5,000 and 10,000 at the Olympics, as Bekele is attempting. And a 1,500-5,000 sweep would be even more unusual — El Guerrouj would be only the second man to accomplish that. Paavo Nurmi did it in 1924.

On Tuesday, Roman Sebrle was chased all the way to the gold medal by American Bryan Clay, the little guy among the giants of the decathlon.

Sebrle, the world record holder from the Czech Republic, won gold with 8,893 points — the on-highest total of his magnificent career.

The 24-year-old Clay, who upset reigning world champion Tom Pappas in the U.S. trials, was second with 8,820 points, the third-highest ever by a U.S. decathlete. Only Dan O'Brien had better scores among Americans.

Clay, who competed for and still trains at tiny Azusa Pacific University in southern California, stands just 5 feet, 11 inches and weighs 174 pounds. Still, he threw the javelin a personal-best 228 feet, 8 inches, then finished with a 4 minute, 11.65 second 1,500 meters closely following Sebrle all the way around the track four times.

2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Brazilians break through in beach volleyball

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Emanuel Rego finally has his gold medal. So does Brazil.

Emanuel and Ricardo Santos, the world's top-ranked team, overpowered Spain's Javier Bosma and Pablo Herrero 21-16, 21-15 on Wednesday, finally capturing a gold medal for the nation that's dominated the sport internationally for more than a decade.

Brazil failed to win a medal in 1996 and earned a disappointing silver in Sydney when third-seeded Ricardo and Ze Marco de Melo lost to ninth-seeded Americans Dean Blanton and Eric Fontenot.

Emanuel had never even come that close. He's the winningest player on the international FIVB tour, with 47 victories and more than \$1.3 million in earnings, but had flopped twice in the Olympics, finishing ninth twice with different partners.

Not this time.

The Brazilians jumped to a 5-2 lead and never trailed, with Ricardo hammering passes and Emanuel drilling well-placed jump serves from the start.

Bosma and Herrero partners up Brazilian pairs in 1996 and 2000.

He and Fabio Diuz up Emanuel and Jose Loloia in Sydney.



Hossein Rezaeideh of Iran lifts 441 pounds in the snatch during the men's over-231 pound event on Wednesday at the Athens Olympics. Rezaeideh won the gold medal and tied his own world record.

It was obvious early that Bosma wouldn't be pulling the hat trick.

The Brazilians led 19-16 in the first set when Ricardo tapped a serve that clipped the top of the net cord and trickled over.

Ricardo turned to the crowd, both arms in the air, already confident of the match's outcome. He ended the set with a crushing spike that hit a sand dune and bounced straight up in the air.

The Brazilians looked even more powerful in the second set, opening a 9-3 lead. While Ricardo

continued to crush spikes almost straight into the ground, Emanuel tracked down every Spanish shot.

The 15th-seeded Spaniards got as close as 12-6, but only because the Brazilians missed two serves. In the end, Bosma and Herrera were caked with sand and drenched with sweat, another obvious indication of how lopsided the match was.

Ricardo finished the match with a soft tap down the line and Emanuel jumped into his partner's arms. The Spaniards slapped hands and applauded the

capacity crowd, most of them yellow-clad Brazilians.

Earlier, Swiss pair Patrick Heuschler and Stefan Kobel won the bronze by beating Australians James Presser and Mark Williams 19-21, 21-17, 15-13.

Equestrian

Individual dressage: A few early stumbles kept the United States from getting another equestrian medal.

Debbie McDonald of Hailey, Idaho, finished fourth in the individual dressage competition, done in by a couple of early mistakes on her horse Brentina.

Instead of getting another medal to go with the Americans' silver in team show jumping from Tuesday night, the United States had to deal with a near-miss.

"I'm not happy with myself," McDonald said. "I'm happy with my horse. The early problems definitely made me concerned. My body wasn't working with my brain."

Anky van Grunsven and her horse Salinero won the gold by finishing first in the individual freestyle program. Ulla Salzgeber of Germany had been leading to that point on her horse Rusty, but wound up settling for silver.

Synchronized swimming

Duet free routine: Alison Bartosik and Anna Kozlova of the United States earned a bronze in the Olympic duet final Wednesday night, finishing behind the Russians and Japanese.

Bartosik and Kozlova totaled 96.918 points for their tribute to Greek mythology that evoked a Medusa theme. They had snakes on their sequined green, gold and white suits and headpieces.

They created serpent images by intertwining their legs and arms in the water while the music "Gorky Park" and three other dramatic compositions blared on the loudspeakers.

Triathlon

Women's final: Kate Allen, a former Australian now Austrian by marriage, passed half of the field during the final leg of the swim-cycling run endurance test, finishing in 2 hours, 4 minutes, 43.45 seconds.

Closer to the rear of the pack than the front for most of the race, she passed everyone during the closing 10-kilometer run, including leader Lotte Harrop of Australia only a few strides before she finished.

Susan Williams, the last American to qualify for the race this summer, won the bronze despite crashing early in the cycling race.

Weightlifting

Men's 105kg: Hossein Rezaeideh of Iran won gold and tied his own world record with a combined weight of 1,041.7 pounds.

Viktors Serebriatski of Latvia got the silver. Velichko Chokolov of Bulgaria won the bronze.

Olympics scoreboard

Wednesday's scores

BASKETBALL	
Men's	
United States 85, Greece 77	
Russia 70, Czech Republic 69	
Brazil 67, Spain 63	
Women	
United States 85, Greece 77	
Russia 70, Czech Republic 69	
Brazil 67, Spain 63	
FIELD HOCKEY	
Men	
United States 10, Greece 7	
Russia 10, Spain 6	
South Korea 3, Argentina 1	
United States 10, Greece 7	
Russia 10, Spain 6	
South Korea 3, Argentina 1	
Women	
United States 10, Greece 7	
Russia 10, Spain 6	
South Korea 3, Argentina 1	
Baseball	
United States 10, Greece 7	
Russia 10, Spain 6	
South Korea 3, Argentina 1	
Baseball	
United States 10, Greece 7	
Russia 10, Spain 6	
South Korea 3, Argentina 1	
Baseball	
United States 10, Greece 7	
Russia 10, Spain 6	
South Korea 3, Argentina 1	

4. Germany (Robert Bartko; Guido Falst)	1. 2, 8, 6, 3, 1, 10, 84.0
5. Ukraine (Volodymyr Rybko; Yasya Yakovlev)	1. 2, 8, 6, 3, 1, 10, 84.0
6. Spain (Miguel Alzamora; Juan Llaneras)	1. 2, 8, 6, 3, 1, 10, 84.0
7. New Zealand (Greg Henderson; Hayden Rowland)	1. 2, 8, 6, 3, 1, 10, 84.0
8. Austria (Roland Garber; Franz Stocher)	1. 2, 8, 6, 3, 1, 10, 84.0
Women's	
Points race	
1. Olga Svirskaya, Russia, 20	
2. Belem Guerrero Mendez, Mexico, 14	
3. Maria Luisa Calle Williams, Colombia, 12	
4. Erin Mirabella, Racine, Wis., 9	
5. Vera Carrara, Italy, 6	
6. Sarah Ulmer, New Zealand, 8	
7. Gema Pascual, Spain, 7	
8. Katherine Smith, Australia, 7	
Equestrian	
Individual Dressage Grand Prix Freestyle	
1. Anky van Grunsven (Salinero), Netherlands, 11, 6, 5, 8, 1, 10, 95.0	
2. Ulla Salzgeber (Bully), Germany, 11, 6, 5, 8, 1, 10, 95.0	
3. Anky van Grunsven (Salinero), Netherlands, 11, 6, 5, 8, 1, 10, 95.0	
4. Deborah McDonald (Brentina), Spain, 10, 6, 5, 8, 1, 10, 95.0	
5. Hubertus Schmidt (Wandelaar), Germany, 10, 6, 5, 8, 1, 10, 95.0	
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2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Middleweight Dirrell clinches second U.S. boxing medal

BY GREG BEACHAM

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Thailand's middleweight Suriya Prasathinphimai upset Ukraine's Olek Mashkin 28-22 on the final day of the quarterfinals in the Olympic boxing tournament Wednesday night.

American Andre Dirrell also upset Cuba's Yordani Despaigne, the world's No. 3 middleweight,

12-11 to clinch a second medal for the U.S., which still will finish with its worst total since 1948.

Mashkin, the runner-up at last year's world championships, fell behind early and couldn't catch up to Suriya, who has never won a major competition. The Thai fighter outscored Mashkin 7-3 in the final round.

Suriya next faces Russia's Gaydarbek Gaydarbekov, the silver medalist four years ago in Syd-

ney. Gaydarbekov beat Cameroon's Hassan Ndam Njikam 26-13.

Despaigne was just the third Cuban fighter to fail to clinch a medal. Eight teammates advanced over the four days of quarterfinals, including flyweight Yuriorkis Gamboa, a 26-18 winner over Russia's Georgy Balakhshin on Wednesday.

Dirrell used a clever strategy against Despaigne, hanging back

in the early rounds before surprising the Cuban with his aggression. Dirrell scored five points in the fourth round to hang on for a one-point victory, and Despaigne refused to hug Dirrell after the bout.

Dirrell will fight Kazakhstan's Gennadiy Golovkin on Friday.

Golovkin beat Egypt's Ramadan Yasser 31-20, leaving the surging Egyptian team with just three guaranteed medals.

Gambao will fight Germany's

Rustamhodza Rahimov, a 28-15 winner over Namibia's Paulus Ambunda. France's Jerome Thomas and Azerbaijan's Foad Aslanov also clinched medals with victories.

Before the session, Greece protested the decision in Egyptian light heavyweight Ahmed Ismail's victory over Elias Pavlidis, who was disqualified Tuesday night with cuts on his face despite holding an 18-12 lead. The Greek protest claimed Ismail caused the injuries with several illegal hits.

Thrown: Gardner on wrong end of this reversal

THROWN, FROM BACK PAGE

He lost a toe — and nearly his life — after a February 2002 snowmobiling accident left him stranded for 18 hours in the wilderness of Wyoming. He survived a motorcycle crash earlier this year, only to severely dislocate his right wrist in a pickup basketball game.

After his loss, Gardner was composed and gracious. He greeted reporters with a "Hey, how are you doing?" then went into a long, clinical explanation of how it happened. It was a far different scene than that of two days before, when U.S. silver medalist Sara McMann bawled her eyes out after losing out on the gold.

The short version of the match from Gardner: He aggressively went at Tsurtsumia, trying to take the lead against a tired opponent, but left himself unguarded and

Tsurtsumia stepped around and took him to the mat.

"One throw and that's the whole match," Gardner said. "One mistake."

Gardner wound on top of Tsurtsumia once they struck the mat, but neither Gardner nor Fraser argued the scoring — even though Gardner, while on the mat, briefly hoped he would get credit for the reversal.

"Look, these guys are good — he was third in the world last year," Gardner said. "They watch hours of film, their coaches are back there yesterday, yelling, teaching, coaching them, telling them everything to do out there."

Early in his semifinal match, he looked to be on track in his quest to become the United States' first two-time gold medalist in Greco-Roman wrestling and only the fourth in any kind of wrestling.

Despite being 10 years younger

than the 33-year-old Gardner, Tsurtsumia appeared to be tiring out halfway through the match. He was hanging on at the end of the second 3-minute period, so tired that at one point he fled the mat rather than lock up with Gardner.

That cost him a point and tied the match 1-1.

Tsurtsumia had scored his only previous point early in the second period when he made Gardner break their clinch.

Gardner knew Tsurtsumia was wearing down, but said, "I knew the (overtime) clinch was coming up, and that's the tell-all." It turns out Gardner was right to be wary.

"No regrets," Gardner said. "I gave it 100 percent and he got me."

Tsurtsumia was wrestling at the junior level when Gardner

beat Karelin to win one of the most unanticipated gold medals in U.S.

Olympic history. Karelin is back at these games but only as a spectator, sitting in the upper reaches of the Ano Lissia Wrestling Hall and declining to talk about his loss to Gardner.

Karelin's successor on the Russian team, world champion Khasan Baroev, won his way into the final with a 4-0 victory over Bara, then defeated Tsurtsumia 4-2 to win the gold medal.

Gardner beat Tsurtsumia 3-0 in a U.S. tournament last year, but finished only 10th in the world championships while Tsurtsumia was third. In his other major competition this year, Tsurtsumia won the Asian championships in April on his home turf in Kazakhstan.

Another American wrestling

medalist also lost Wednesday: 2000 bronze medalist Garrett Lowmyer, of Freedom, Wis., was eliminated with losses of 3-0 to Cuba's Ernesto Pena and 4-0 to Hungary's Lajos Virek in pool matches at 211½ pounds (96kg).

Jim Gruenwald, sixth in the 2000 Games and fourth in the 2003 world championships, rallied to beat Hugo Passos of Portugal 12-7 in his first match at 132 pounds (60kg) and will meet Eusebio Diaconu of Romania later Wednesday. Gruenwald, from Milwaukee, advances to the quarterfinals if he wins.

There will be no third consecutive Olympic gold for Turkey's Hamza Yerlikaya, who lost 3-0 to 2002 world champion Ara Abrahamian of Sweden in the 185-pound (84kg) semifinals. Yerlikaya, 28, has not finished higher than six in the world since the Sydney Games.

Foudy's status game-time decision

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — U.S. soccer captain Julie Foudy's sprained ankle showed signs of improvement on Wednesday, though she remains a game-time decision for Thursday's gold medal game against Brazil.

"Julie's doing better," coach April Heinrichs said. "We're real excited to see her walking."

Heinrichs said Foudy no longer needed the crutches she'd been using since she was injured in the second half of Monday night's overtime victory over Germany in the semifinals.

Asked about Foudy's chances of playing, Heinrichs sighed heavily and paused before answering.

"I don't know. It's a very physical game," Heinrichs said.

"It's just hard to tell right now. She's walking. She's encouraged. She's optimistic, as she is as a person and should be as an athlete who wants to play in this game. We'll make the call tomorrow, much closer to the game."

Prosecutors seize medical files of Greek sprint stars

ATHENS, Greece — Prosecu-

tors seized the hospital records Wednesday of two Greek sprinters

stars who withdrew from the Olympics after they missed a doping test and were involved in a suspicious motorcycle accident.

A source told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity that prosecutors visited the KAT trauma hospital and left with the records of Kostas Kenteris and Katerina Thanou.

Kenteris, the surprise 200-meter gold medalist in 2000, and Thanou, who took silver in the 100 meters in Sydney, could not be found at the Olympic Village for an Aug. 12 drug test. Hours later, they said they were involved in a motorcycle accident that happened because they were rushing back to the Olympic village to be tested.

They spent several days in the KAT hospital with cuts and bruises, and later withdrew from the Olympics.

Now, prosecutors are investigating the accident and whether the two national stars were deliberately trying to avoid drug tests.

Kenteris and Thanou have de-

nied any wrongdoing.

Greece protests fight stoppage

ATHENS, Greece — Greece has lodged a protest over the controversial end to light heavyweight Elias Pavlidis' Olympic bout against Egypt's Ahmed Ismail, saying Ismail delivered several illegal hits that caused Pavlidis to become too injured to continue.

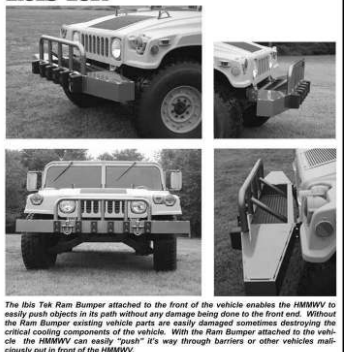
The Hellenic Boxing Federation lodged the protest shortly after the match ended Tuesday night in a storm of boos from a partisan crowd hoping to see Greece win its first Olympic boxing medal.

Pavlidis took an 18-12 lead after two rounds, but referee P.K. Raja of Indonesia called off the fight because of serious cuts on Pavlidis' face.

The decision sparked a melee in Peristeri Olympic Boxing Hall, with fans throwing water bottles at the ring and forcing Ismail to run for cover.

Greece's protest claims "the Egyptian athlete ... did not compete fairly, as can be seen clearly in the videotape." The protest doesn't specify the hits involved, saying only that most occurred in the second round.

Ibis Tek



The Ibis Tek Ram Bumper attached to the front of the vehicle enables the HMMVY in easily push objects in its path without any damage being done to the front end. Without the Ram Bumper existing vehicle parts are easily damaged sometimes destroying the critical cooling components of the vehicle. With the Ram Bumper attached to the vehicle the HMMVY can easily "push" it's way through barriers or other vehicles maliciously put in front of the HMMVY.

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2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

U.S. women dominate Greece

BY CHUCK SCHOFFNER

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — The place and the opponent don't really matter. This U.S. basketball team is on a roll.

Hushing a boisterous crowd with its all-around domination, the United States advanced to the semifinals Wednesday with a 102-72 victory over Greece, which had heart, the home court and little else.

Now, only two games stand between the Americans and a third straight gold medal. They'll play Russia on Friday. The semifinal winners advance to the gold medal game on Saturday.

"This is not. No regrets now," Tina Thompson said. "There's no getting it back or catching up from a loss. That would mean no

gold medal and, for us, no gold medal means failure."

After playing their preliminary games in a small arena at the Helliniko complex on the coast, the teams moved to the spacious 19,250-seat Olympic Indoor Hall for the medal round. The Americans looked liked they belonged on the bigger stage.

Lisa Leslie and Yolanda Griffith dominated inside, Tina Thompson hit a succession of jumpers, Shannon Johnson had her best game of the tournament and Tamika Catchings was everywhere on both ends of the floor.

The passing was sharp, the defense quick and aggressive. By the middle of the second quarter, the United States was up by 20, and the Greek fans who made up most of the crowd of 8,100 started losing their zeal.

Even the "He-las! He-las!" chant began to wane and the crowd stopped booing whenever the United States had the ball, slipping into a state of quiet acceptance.

These U.S. players, the Greek fans discovered, are pretty darn good.

"The crowd was great today and whenever a team feels the energy of a crowd, it plays above its head and Greece did," Diana Taurasi said. "Teams like that just don't go away. They play to the last bucket, but if you can get on them early and get the crowd out of there ... that's what our first five did."

The Americans shot 57 percent in the first half and 50 percent for the game. If someone did miss a shot, it didn't matter.

Griffith, Leslie or Catchings got



Americans Tina Thompson, right, and Lisa Leslie dominated early against Greece and cheered from the bench late in the game.

the rebound and scored on a put-back.

Johnson and Thompson scored 20 apiece, and there was much more after that. Griffith had 14 points and 11 rebounds, Diana

Taurasi had 13 points, and Leslie and Sheryl Swoopes added 12 apiece.

Leslie also had eight rebounds. Final rebounding numbers: United States 44, Greece 22.

Windsurfing gold is first for Israel

BY BERNIE WILSON

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — A windsurfer whose first name means "waves" in Hebrew gave Israel its first Olympic gold medal ever Wednesday, taking a plunge in the Saronic Gulf to celebrate.

Gal Fridman sailed a remarkably consistent regatta, never finishing worse than eighth in the 11-race series. He placed second in Wednesday's decisive race.

After Fridman crossed the finish line, he took a victory dip and then wrapped himself in an Israeli flag when he came out of the water.

Fridman's victory finally gives Israel the chance to hear their national anthem during a medal ceremony, scheduled for later in the day. The song is "Hatikvah."

— The Hope — and Israeli fans sang it spontaneously last week when Ariel Zevevi won a bronze medal in judo.

There has been tremendous pressure on Israeli athletes to get their country's first gold at the Athens Games. When Zevevi won his medal, he called it "the hardest day of my life" because of the scrutiny.

In 12 previous Olympics dating to 1952, Israel had won only one silver and three bronze medals. Fridman won a bronze in his event in 1996.

Fridman's victory came after Ricardo Santos of Brazil, the leader through 10 races, finished 17th in the finale. Nikolaos Kaldamankis of Greece won the silver, and Nick Dempsey of Britain took the bronze.

Faustine Merret of France won the bronze in the women's race. Yin Jian of China won the silver, and Alessandra Sensi of Italy got the bronze.

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Prosecutors say Bryant DNA evidence contaminated

The Associated Press

DENVER — Crucial DNA evidence tested by defense experts in the Kobe Bryant sexual assault case might have been contaminated, prosecutors said in a court filing released Wednesday, just two days before jury selection is to begin.

Prosecutors said they had found contamination in DNA "control" samples intended to ensure testing was accurate. They

also said data from the defense's experts appears to have been manipulated.

Prosecutors asked the judge to hold a hearing Thursday to force the NBA star's attorneys to prove the reliability of the evidence intended to be presented at trial by defense experts.

Those experts include Elizabeth Johnson, who testified in a closed-court hearing in June that DNA evidence strongly suggests the alleged victim had sex with an-

Sports briefs

other man after her encounter with Bryant and before her hospital examination the following day.

That claim, which attorneys for the woman have denied, is a core part of the defense's strategy to undermine the accuser's credibility.

In the filing, prosecutor Dana

Easter said some data from Technical Associates Inc., the California company where Johnson works, appeared to have been "whited out or otherwise manipulated."

Dampier goes from Warriors to Mavs in eight-player deal

DALLAS — The Dallas Mavericks sent Christian Laettner, Eduardo Najera, two future first-round draft picks and the draft rights to guards Luis Flores

and Mladen Sekulacic to the Warriors for Erick Dampier and Dan Dickau, Evan Eschmeyer and the draft rights to Steve Logan.

The 6-foot-11 Dampier averaged career highs of 12.3 points and 12 rebounds in 74 games last season for the Warriors. He was fourth in the NBA in rebounding, and one of just six players to average more than 10 points and 10 rebounds a game.

In a release, the Mavericks said Dampier would join the team with Golden State before the trade was completed. Contract details weren't immediately available.

Tavarez suspended 10 days for doctored balls

CINCINNATI — St. Louis reliever Julian Tavarez was suspended for 10 days Tuesday for balls while pitching last week.

Tavarez, appealed the penalty, and no action will be taken until a hearing is held.

"The incident that day seemed like it was a very minor thing, and I'm shocked that it would be worth 10 days," Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said.

Tavarez was ejected during the opener of Friday's doubleheader against Pittsburgh after umpire crew chief Joe West inspected the pitcher's grimy hat. West said Tavarez and Cardinals and manager Tony La Russa "as much admitted" it was pine tar on his cap.

Bloom's final appeal denied

BOULDER, Colo. — Jeremy Bloom lost his final plea to be allowed to play football for Colorado while accepting commercial ski endorsements.

The five-member NCAA Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee turned down the appeal after hearing presentations from Bloom, Colorado, and the NCAA in a conference call.

Bloom appealed an NCAA ruling last week that he could not pocket endorsement money, which he said is necessary to support his Olympic skiing career, while playing receiver and kick returner for Colorado.

Agassi could meet Federer in U.S. Open quarterfinals

NEW YORK — Andre Agassi's path at the U.S. Open could include a quarterfinal against No. 1 Roger Federer, while defending champion Andy Roddick might have to play 2000 winner Marat Safin in the fourth round.

Serena and Venus Williams wound up on opposite sides of the field in Wednesday's draw, so they can't play each other until the final.

In addition to Agassi-Federer, the potential quarterfinals are Roddick vs. No. 7 Juan Carlos Ferrero in a rematch of the 2003 final, 2001 Open champion Lleyton Hewitt vs. No. 8 David Nalbandian, and No. 5 Tim Lennan vs. No. 3 Carlos Moya.

In total, those eight major titles include the 1994 and 1999 Opens, will face U.S. Davis Cup player Robby Ginepri in the first round. No. 3-seeded Serena Williams is slated for a quarterfinal against No. 8 Jennifer Capriati. Another possible women's round-of-eight matchup is defending champion Justine Henin-Hardenne vs. Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova.



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SPORTS



Grand slam makes Dodgers 3B Beltre first in majors to hit 40 home runs this season, Page 26



U.S. wrestler Rulon Gardner, left, reacts after losing in OT to Kazakhstan's Georgi Tsurtsumia, right, in a Greco-Roman 264½-pound (120kg) semifinal on Wednesday. Gardner went on to win the bronze medal, and Tsurtsumia lost to Khasan Baroev of Russia in the gold-medal match.

Gardner settles for bronze in Greco-Roman wrestling

BY ALAN ROBINSON
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Rulon Gardner was in another Olympic wrestling upset — his own. One of the biggest stars of the 2000 Summer Games, Gardner was thrown to the mat in overtime Wednesday by Kazakhstan's Georgi Tsurtsumia and lost 4-1 in his 264½-pound (120 kg) Greco-Roman semifinal. He won the bronze medal later in the day, defeating Sجاد Barzi of Iran 3-0.

After the bronze-medal match, Gardner tearfully untied his shoes and left them in the center of the ring — a traditional sign of retirement.

After leaving his shoes on the mat, he cried and blew kisses to the crowd as he walked around the arena holding an American flag. Gardner was as surprised as anyone when Tsurtsumia somehow pulled off the winning 3-point move in their semifinal match, espe-

cially after spending much of the match wearing down the younger wrestler.

Tsurtsumia looked upward at the scoreboard, still unsure for just a moment that he'd won, then jumped jubilantly into his coach's arms. Gardner seemed confused, too, searching for an explanation as he turned toward his corner and U.S. coach Steve Fraser.

Just like that, Rulon's remarkable comeback from a spate of injuries and misfortune was finished. Kneeling on the mat as Tsurtsumia celebrated, Gardner thought "It's over, it's done," he said. "Beyond that, I wasn't even tired."

Gardner went from obscurity to celebrity after his stunning upset four years ago of the once-invincible Alexander Karelin, generally considered the greatest wrestler of all time. But Gardner has fought through a long succession of physical ailments since Sydney.

SEE THROWN ON PAGE 29



Gardner, who scored one of wrestling's biggest upsets in the Sydney Games, took off his shoes and left them in the ring to symbolize his retirement after defeating Sجاد Barzi of Iran in the bronze-medal bout Wednesday.

Medal count

Leaders after 212 of 215 medal events in The 2004 Olympics through Wednesday, Aug. 25:

Country	G	S	B	Total
United States	25	28	22	75
Russia	13	19	21	53
China	24	16	12	52
Australia	16	10	15	41
Japan	15	9	9	33
Germany	9	11	13	33
France	10	7	9	26
Britain	7	8	9	24
Italy	8	6	8	22
South Korea	6	10	5	21



Home court does Greece little good as U.S. women roll into semifinals

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Windsurfer gives Israel first-ever gold medal

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- Brazil beats Spain for gold in men's beach volleyball, Page 28

Bills rookie quarterback Losman sidelined with broken leg Page 24